

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST 5, 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 and the Finance Director were also present. The County Attorney was absent.

Chairman Blount convened the meeting at 9:00 am.

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

ADDITIONS:

- Commissioner Chamberlain stated his request was not an addition to the agenda, but asked that Commissioners review literature that had been distributed concerning year-round education.
- Chairman Blount called for discussion concerning the Parks System.
- Mr. Russell added a proposed lease from SBA Towers concerning the erection of a cell tower.

COMMISSIONERS LIAISON REPORTS:

- Commissioner Chamberlain acknowledged what a great season the Rowan County American Legion was experiencing.

- Commissioner Belk praised the newspaper coverage concerning Nick's Playground and encouraged the public to attend the dedication on August 18, 2002.
- Chairman Blount informed the Board that he had received a letter from Phil Kirk expressing support of the school bond.
- Chairman Blount mentioned that a thank-you note had been received from District Attorney Bill Kenerly for the Board's support of the grant for the new prosecutor.
- Commissioner Andrews mentioned the thank-you note received from Mayor Jeffries of East Spencer, which expressed appreciation to County Staff for assistance to the citizens of East Spencer.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Andrews made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Belk and passed unanimously.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Approval of the 06/25/2002 minutes
- B. Approval of the 07/08/2002 minutes
- C. Approval of the 07/15/2002 minutes
- D. Approval to set a public hearing for Unanimous Petitions for:
Tupelo Circle, Numerous Roads in the Matika Villa MHP and for Jackson Farm Lane
- E. Approval to reschedule and continue the public hearings for the Special Consideration of Drye Lane (Buddies Lane)
- F. Approval of the Budget Amendments

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Danny Tuttle, representing the landowners of High Rock Lake, presented a petition, containing over 500 signatures, to the Board and asked for a break on county taxes for their waterfront homes. The request also called for incentives to attract buyers for lakefront property to aid the slow real estate market.

Commissioner Andrews asked Mr. Tuttle to clarify what was meant by "incentives." Mr. Tuttle responded that property values "have just been destroyed, " with a lot of property for sale and no buyers.

Paul Sprinkle had previously signed up to speak but was not present.

Chairman Blount explained that the County is limited by the State and must charge all landowners the same tax rate. Chairman Blount also stated that the assessment procedures are passed to the County from the State.

Commissioner Tadlock pointed out that farmers, who depend on their crops and livestock for survival, have been hit hard by the drought conditions as well.

Chairman Blount mentioned that many businesses have suffered due to the lack of water to operate their business.

Commissioner Andrews suggested the County direct letters to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioner (FERC) to allow Alcoa to retain more water.

Commissioner Chamberlain verified with Mr. Tuttle that the property owners would like the Board to direct questions to Alcoa concerning the operating of High Rock Lake.

RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH FOR: JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST:

Chairman Blount recognized Steve Joslin of the Health Department as Employee of the Month for June, Pat Spears of the Department of Social Services for the month of July, and Linda Clodfelter of Information Systems for the month of August. The employees were presented certificates and given a round of applause for their years of dedication in serving the citizens of the County.

PRESENTATION ON DSS FISCAL YEAR HIGHLIGHTS:

Zell Setzer, Chairman of the Department of Social Services (DSS) Board, thanked the Board of Commissioners for their support. Mr. Setzer presented the following DSS highlights for the previous year:

- One of eleven (11) counties in NC which is accredited
- Cost for all services and programs remained within the budget
- Foster care payments saved the county \$220,000
- Fulltime Spanish interpreter to assist with the Latino community

Mr. Setzer expressed concern over the aging population and stated more funds will eventually be needed for Medicare and institutions.

Mr. Setzer emphasized the desire of DSS is to be proactive and to be an integral part of the community. Mr. Setzer requested the Board to let the DSS Board know what it expects.

Sandra Wilkes, Director of DSS, agreed that DSS had a “very good year,” with accreditation ranking on the top of her list. Ms. Wilkes thanked the Board for the move of the Child Support Division into a new facility. Ms. Wilkes also praised the excellent staff at DSS for its hard work.

In response to a query from Commissioner Chamberlain, Ms. Wilkes stated that the average child protective service worker's caseload is twelve (12), and the average adult caseload is twenty (20).

ADDITION:

Parks & Recreation

Chairman Blount mentioned a letter received from NCDENR concerning the award of the \$500,000 grant for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and asked Commissioner Belk to discuss the award.

Commissioner Belk stated that Bob Pendergrass had traveled and worked diligently to prepare the grant. The grant came in "second" for all grants received by the State and was noted to be one of the best-prepared grants ever received. Commissioner Belk thanked Mr. Pendergrass for his hard work.

Mr. Foltz reiterated the comments from Commissioner Belk and expressed that full credit for receipt of the grant was due to Mr. Pendergrass.

Mr. Pendergrass discussed the matching funds for the PARTF and the LWCF grants. Mr. Pendergrass stated that if the Parks "could come up with \$250,000, we've got a million dollars."

Commissioner Tadlock expressed appreciation for "a job well done" and for the representation of Rowan County.

Commissioner Chamberlain "echoed" appreciation to Mr. Pendergrass as well, and also requested clarification on the matching funds for the grants. Mr. Pendergrass explained both grants as matching grants, with the \$250,000 PARTF grant able to be used as the \$250,000 match for the LWCF grant. Mr. Pendergrass stated that the County needed \$250,000 total in order to receive \$750,000 in total grant money.

Chairman Blount thanked Mr. Pendergrass for his hard work.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR MAJORITY PETITION ROAD NAME REQUESTS FOR:

- **Pittard Street**
- **Culpepper Drive**
- **Open Street**
- **Horse Power Lane**

Fredda Greer of the Planning Department stated that ASI identified each of the roads as roads meeting the criteria to be named. All property owners were notified and given the

opportunity to have input in naming the roads. Staff recommended the names as presented.

Chairman Blount opened the public hearing to entertain citizen comment concerning the naming of:

- Pittard Street, currently unnamed, but called South Kimmins Street by the residents;
- Culpepper Drive, currently unnamed and called Cannon Farm Road by the residents;
- Open Street, currently unnamed and known as Old Beatty Ford Road by residents; and
- Horse Power Lane, unnamed and called China Grove Road by residents.

With no citizens wishing to address the Board, Chairman Blount closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Belk made a motion to accept the names of Pittard Street, Culpepper Drive, Open Street and Horse Power Lane. Commissioner Chamberlain seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR UNANIMOUS PETITION ROAD NAME REQUESTS FOR:

- **Wensil Lane**
- **Legacy Maple Drive & Silver Maple Drive**
- **Hard Rock Drive**
- **Hideaway Drive**
- **Sheephead Lane**

Ms. Greer requested to break the roads into separate categories with the first group being Wensil Lane, Hideaway Drive and Sheephead Lane. Ms. Greer explained that ASI identified the roads as needing to be named and that residents submitted petitions with unanimous signatures. Staff recommended approval of the names as submitted.

Chairman Blount opened the public hearing at 9:37 am to entertain citizen input concerning the naming of:

- Sheephead Lane, currently known as Stirewalt Road;
- Hideaway Drive, known as Elizabeth Avenue; and
- Wensil Lane, currently known as Turkey Road.

With no citizens wishing to address the Board, Chairman Blount closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Tadlock made a motion to approve the road names as submitted, followed by a second from Commissioner Chamberlain. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Greer explained that Legacy Maple Drive and Silver Maple Drive, were internal roads within the Red Maple Mobile Home Village, and are required by zoning regulations to be assigned road names. The residents are currently addressed as Red Maple Drive. A petition was submitted by property owner, Youlanda P. White, requesting the roads be named Legacy Maple Drive and Silver Maple Drive. Staff supports the application.

Chairman Blount opened the public hearing to entertain citizen comment concerning the addressing of:

- Legacy Maple Drive and
- Silver Maple Drive.

With no citizens to address the Board, Chairman Blount closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Chamberlain made a motion to approve the road names as submitted. Commissioner Tadlock seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Greer stated that Hard Rock Drive was an internal road within Happy Grove Mobile Home Park. Ms. Greer stated that the property owner, Richard Smith, had submitted a petition to name the road Hard Rock Drive. Ms. Greer explained that after the notices had gone out, she had received a call from Mr. Percy Gwants requesting to name the road Gwants Road. Ms. Greer stated Mr. Gwants daughter had also called on August 5th questioning the road name. Ms. Greer suggested that the road the Gwants were speaking of, to come off of Happy Lake Road. Ms. Greer said the name proposed by Mr. Smith was entirely on his property, however, the Gwants do have a deeded right-of-way across the property.

Chairman Blount opened the public hearing at 9:41 am to entertain citizen comment concerning the naming of:

- Hard Rock Drive.
 1. Mr. Percy Gwants was prepared to address the Board, but after conversing with Ms. Greer, was satisfied with the road naming process. Mr. Gwants said he was “impressed” and “appreciated” the way the Board had opened the meeting with prayer.

Chairman Blount thanked Mr. Gwants and with no further comments from the audience, closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Andrews made a motion to approve the road name of Hard Rock Drive. Commissioner Tadlock seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF PLANS & A RESOLUTION FOR THE CDBG SCATTERED SITE HOUSING PROJECT:

Steve Austin, Community Development Planner for Benchmark, LLC, explained that in order for Rowan County to receive funds for the Community Development Block Grant Scattered Site Housing program, the State and HUD require that policies and procedures to be adopted. Mr. Austin highlighted the policies and procedures as follows:

1. Grant Project Budget Ordinance
2. Complaint Procedure
3. Equal Employment and Procurement Plan
4. Section 3 Plan for Employment Opportunities
5. Citizen Participation Plan
6. Procurement Policy
7. Fair Housing Resolution
8. Recipient's Plan to Further Fair Housing
9. Code of Conduct
10. Anti-Displacement and Relocation Plan
11. Optional Coverage Relocation Plan

Mr. Austin explained that all policies and procedures could be adopted with one (1) motion.

Commissioner Chamberlain referred to the fact that Benchmark is responsible by contract to carry out the policies and procedures concerning the County's grant.

Commissioner Belk made a motion to adopt the policies and procedures as presented. Commissioner Tadlock seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Austin discussed the required Resolution that specifies from whom the County is authorized to approve payment requisitions and who is authorized to sign checks for the program.

Commissioner Chamberlain suggested Finance Director, Leslie Heidrick, to which Chairman Blount agreed.

Mr. Austin stated three (3) signatures are recommended by the State.

Ms. Heidrick responded that the current signature cards have the names of Chairman Blount, Tim Russell and Leslie Heidrick.

Commissioner Chamberlain made a motion for the authorizing signatures to be Ms. Heidrick, Chairman Blount, and Mr. Russell. Commissioner Tadlock seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION FOR THE NON-PROFIT TEXT AMENDMENTS TO THE ROWAN COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE:

Marion Lytle, County Planner, highlighted the zoning text approved by the Planning Board on July 22, 2002, which concerned non-profits.

Mr. Lytle referred to the West Rowan Bow Hunter's Club that had moved and established an archery range on Amity Hill Road. The club was found to be in violation of the RA zoning and was issued a temporary permit to allow them to operate while the County studied the zoning text amendments.

Mr. Lytle stated the biggest issue for the Planning Board was the non-profit status, specifically the requirement for the 501(C) 3, which involves paperwork and federal procedures.

Mr. Lytle mentioned that fraternal organizations had been added to the list of non-profit organizations, which also included athletic fields, archery ranges and civic organizations. Mr. Lytle stated that the uses would require a conditional use permit to be approved in the RA District (all are permitted uses in the CBI District).

Chairman Blount made a correction to the Standard for Archery Ranges under Licenses and Permits. The word "silences" should have been "licenses."

Mr. Lytle responded to a query from Commissioner Chamberlain that archery ranges are permitted uses in the CBI District and the use table would be changed.

Mr. Lytle stated that there were no members from the West Rowan Bow Hunters Club present. Mr. Lytle continued by saying the members would be notified concerning the public hearing for the text amendments, as well as other property owners, along with one (1) complainant.

Commissioner Tadlock made a motion to schedule a public hearing at the next Board meeting to entertain comments on the proposed text amendments. Commissioner Belk seconded the motion.

Commissioner Andrews expressed concern with "charitable uses" and highlighted potential scenarios the text amendments could create. Commissioner Andrews stated he wanted to create awareness of the door the county could open with charitable uses, which would difficult to control.

Mr. Lytle agreed with Commissioner Andrews and stated the issues must be looked at carefully.

Commissioner Chamberlain said he was "not crazy about us having to rule on everything via conditional use permits" but felt the non-profits should definitely be handled on a case-by-case basis with conditional use permits.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion to schedule the public hearing for the text amendments carried unanimously.

SET A DATE FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE STRUCTURE READDRESSING TO BE HELD IN OCTOBER:

Mr. Lytle discussed the proposed dates for a public hearing for the southeastern portion of Rowan County. Mr. Lytle mentioned that Tuesday, October 22, 2002 was staff's first choice.

By consensus, the Board agreed to schedule the public hearing for Tuesday, October 22, 2002. Staff will advise the Board where the meeting will be held.

MINIMUM HOUSING ORDINANCE VIOLATION:

Lloyd Pace, Codes Enforcement Officer, stated that in February of 2002, the County began enforcing the Minimum Housing code requirements. Mr. Pace explained that the house in question is the first house the County has removed under the ordinance. Mr. Pace requested the Board to approve a Resolution to condemn the house and reviewed the legal procedures that would follow approval of the Resolution. Mr. Pace stated that once the procedures are completed, the owners are given an additional thirty (30) days to comply. Mr. Pace estimated the cost for demolition of the house to be approximately \$3,000.00.

Mr. Pace highlighted the history of the violations for the house, stating the complaints originated from the Rowan County Sheriff's Department.

In response to a query from Commissioner Chamberlain, Mr. Pace said the house belongs to the estate of the Gray family. Mr. Pace also stated that not all of the five or six people living there were family members.

Mr. Pace stated that the County would place a lien on the property for expenses incurred of the demolition of the house.

Commissioner Chamberlain made a motion to approve the proceedings and allocate \$3,000.00 for the demolition. Commissioner Tadlock seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Pace mentioned that the Scotch-Irish Fire Department and the Fire Marshal might burn the house.

PRESENTATION ON THE PROPOSED ROWAN COUNTY SEWER USE ORDINANCE & APPROVAL TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING:

Don Conner, Director of Environmental Services, presented the proposed Sewer Use Ordinance, which would apply to the wastewater treatment plant located on Highway 70. Mr. Conner explained that the City of Salisbury would eventually take over the County's wastewater plant and waterline. Mr. Conner described the ordinance as being similar to the City of Salisbury's ordinance to ensure the County meets the City's standards until the takeover occurs.

Chairman Blount inquired if the County was following the suggestions. Mr. Conner responded "pretty much" but there were a few things that need to be changed.

Chairman Blount asked about any costs associated with making the changes. Mr. Conner stated the costs would be borne by the customers.

Mr. Conner asked the Board to schedule a public hearing and also mentioned that several tables are missing from the ordinance. Mr. Conner said the tables would be presented with the ordinance for the public hearing.

Commissioner Andrews made a motion to schedule a public hearing at the Board's next regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Belk and carried unanimously.

ACCEPTANCE OF SCHOOL BOND PACKAGE AS PRESENTED BY THE ROWAN-SALISBURY SCHOOL BOARD AND THE KANNAPOLIS CITY SCHOOL BOARD & APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR NEW BONDS & REFUNDING BONDS:

AND

APPROVAL OF BOND ORDER AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$30,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS OF ROWAN COUNTY & APPROVAL OF SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING:

Leslie Heidrick, Finance Director, explained that two (2) Resolutions had been received from the Rowan-Salisbury School Board of Education and the Kannapolis City Schools, requesting that the Board go forward with the bond referendum in November. Ms. Heidrick continued by saying Rowan-Salisbury Schools asked for \$72,768,000 and Kannapolis City Schools requested \$4,132,000. Ms. Heidrick stated the Resolutions needed to be accepted by the Board.

Commissioner Andrews commented that the Board, as well as the School Board, had worked "extremely hard" on the bond issue. For the record, Commissioner Andrews stated that after the two (2) Boards met and put together the final numbers for the bond, the major concerns of the citizens were 1) the major cost factor, and 2) who will attend the new schools when built.

Commissioner Andrews continued by pointing out that after the final numbers had been decided upon, the School Board, at its next meeting, rescinded part of the information presented to the Board and a portion of what had been rescinded was a portion of “validity” for him to support the package. Commissioner Andrews stated for the record, that this was the second time since being elected to the Board, that he had spent a tremendous amount of time to working on an issue, to achieve what was best for all parties and then to be immediately “blindsided” afterwards.

Commissioner Andrews explained that information concerning “who would be attending the schools” would be presented the first week in October, prior to voting on the bond in November and if the information presented is unacceptable, then the efforts for the bond would be destroyed. Commissioner Andrews, for the record, said he totally supports the bond effort and the needs of the school system, but was very disappointed in the way the situation came about.

Commissioner Chamberlain expressed his disappointment that the redistricting plan would not take place before October 1st and he would not support the bond package without the redistricting plan. Commissioner Chamberlain requested that the School Board “back off” on the \$375,000 for classroom supplies.

Commissioner Belk agreed with Commissioner Andrews that the timing was “poor” for the redistricting plan to be presented in October. Commissioner Belk also agreed that the School Board should “back off” the teachers supply money, saying the funds were “not an issue.”

Commissioner Andrews mentioned that according to the newspaper, the School Board was scheduled to vote on the \$375,000 teachers supply money and he felt the money should go for teachers’ supplies. Commissioner Andrews asked the County Manager if the issue was “voted down” by the School Board, were there other ways to guarantee the money could be used for teachers’ supplies.

Chairman Blount responded that he had discussed the issue with the County Manager and there are other ways to get the money into the teachers’ hands.

Commissioner Chamberlain stated that he would like to see the money go to the teachers, but if it were not possible, then the County would retain the \$375,000 in the General Fund.

Commissioner Tadlock mentioned that the funds had been available for teachers for “some time,” however; the required Resolution had not been received from the School Board. Commissioner Tadlock referred to the tax-free weekend, when the teachers could have saved the six and one-half cents sales tax when shopping for school supplies. Commissioner Tadlock expressed disappointment that the School Board has been “dragging their feet” in sending the Resolution.

Chairman Blount felt the teachers did shop during the tax-free weekend and receipts could be submitted when the funds become available.

Chairman Blount referred to the bond issue and the question of redistricting. Chairman Blount pointed out that with elections coming up, a new School Board could “undo” the decisions made by the current School Board.

Chairman Blount stated that citizens had questioned the costs of the new schools and the overall management of a \$77 million dollar construction project. Chairman Blount stated the costs of the schools were based on a state formula but that no final decisions had been made concerning the types of construction. Chairman Blount added that the responsibility for the management of the construction projects falls back to the County Commissioners and staff. Chairman Blount stated that the Board could step in at any time and assume total control of managing the construction, if necessary.

Ms. Heidrick explained that the Board needed to approve a Resolution authorizing the County to go forward with the \$76.9 million dollar school bond application to the LGC and a refunding application not to exceed \$30 million.

Chairman Blount discussed refinancing the current school bonds, which total approximately \$30 million. Chairman Blount stated the County could save between \$800,000 to \$1.3 million in interest by refinancing the bonds.

Mr. Russell reviewed a handout and explained the best offer appears to be the 1994-95 issuance and the 1996 issuance is still questionable. Mr. Russell made copies of the proposed schedule, which the financing advisor presented, showing refunds for 1994, 1995 and 1996, and the proposed savings of approximately \$807,000. Mr. Russell brought the Board’s attention to the PV benefit, which is required to be around 3%, and by refinancing all three (3), would be at the 3% level.

Mr. Russell then referenced the refunding of the 1994 and 1995 bonds only and the proposed savings of approximately \$758,000 and the PV benefit would exceed the 3% requirement. The refinancing of the 1994 and 1995 issuance would be approximately \$21,000,000 to \$22,000,000.

Mr. Russell concluded by referencing the last page of the handout, which addressed the 1994 bonds only and a savings of approximately \$480,000.

Mr. Russell stated that between all three scenarios, it appears that refinancing the 1994 and 1995 issuance would be the recommendation. Mr. Russell clarified that the refinancing is not to extend the terms or length of time and the payout period would remain the same.

Chairman Blount added that the suggestion was made to talk with the bonding agents concerning improving Rowan County’s bond rating, since “some of our numbers were

looking pretty good.” Staff is researching this, not only for this refinancing, but also for future issuance. Chairman Blount attributed this success to Mr. Russell and Ms. Heidrick

In response to a question from Commissioner Chamberlain, Mr. Russell explained that Rowan County is currently at an “A+ / A1” rating and this could go to an “AA” rating. Mr. Russell continued to explain that AAA ratings are usually in larger counties, such as Mecklenburg.

Commissioner Chamberlain questioned, if the net PV benefit value of all three bonds would be approximately \$759,000, why is the recommendation for the 1994 and 1995 bonds only, with a net PV benefit of approximately \$647,000. Mr. Russell explained that there is an allowance of only “one time” to refinance and there is the possibility of some “room to go.” The financial advisors indicated there would be a better time to consider the 1996 bond and gain even more money. Chairman Blount added that there would be a net loss, at this time, for the 1996 bonds, which is not shown in the handouts presented.

Chairman Blount called for a motion to approve the two-part resolution. One part, which addresses the \$76.9 million for the new bonds and also for the issuance of \$30 million for the refunding of the existing bonds, in order to refinance.

Commissioner Tadlock made the motion and Commissioner Belk seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Heidrick explained to the Board that the remaining resolution addressed the refunding issue, which is the introduction of the refunding bond order and also for a public hearing to be set for the bond order on August 19, 2002. Ms. Heidrick clarified that the previous motion was approval to allow for the application to the LGC (Local Government Commission).

Chairman Blount summarized that this motion would allow issuance of the bonds.

Commissioner Belk made a motion to approve this resolution. Commissioner Andrews seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Blount expressed that, by this action, close to \$800,000 was just saved and possibly more, should the bond rating go down.

DISCUSSION OF CHANGING THE FIRST COMMISSION MEETING DATE IN SEPTEMBER; DISCUSSION OF CHANGING THE SEPTEMBER 16TH MEETING DATE TO SEPTEMBER 23RD:

Rita Foil, Clerk to the Board, pointed out that the first Monday in September will be the Labor Day Holiday and stated that in the past, the meetings were rescheduled for the first Tuesday in the month.

Ms. Foil also stated that due to the September 16th meeting date falling so closely to the primary election, that it had been suggested to move the meeting to September 23rd.

By consensus, the Board agreed to schedule its meetings dates in September for September 3rd and September 23rd.

Later in the meeting, Ms. Foil brought it to the attention of the Board, that the Planning Board had a regularly scheduled meeting on September 23rd.

By consensus, the Board changed back to its meeting date of September 16th.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee:

Commissioner Belk made a motion to reappoint Jonnette Powell, Chris Chaney and James Talton to the committee. The motion carried.

Centralina Workforce Development Board:

Commissioner Andrews made a motion to appoint Ken Parr to fill the vacancy of the private slot and the motion passed.

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council:

Commissioner Chamberlain made a motion to appoint David Allen to fill the Chief of Police vacancy. The motion carried.

Rowan County Housing Authority:

Mr. Russell requested the Board to delay the reappointment of Betty Miller.

Later in the meeting, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Tim Russell to the Housing Authority Board.

Rowan County Nursing Home Advisory Committee:

Commissioner Tadlock made a motion to reappoint Peggy Lipe and the motion passed unanimously.

ADDITIONS:

SBA Towers

Mr. Russell explained that the County had been approached by AT&T representatives, expressing interest in leasing a parcel of county-owned property, on Providence Church Road, to construct a cell tower. Mr. Russell distributed part of a proposal and a map from SBA Towers, the agent for AT&T.

Mr. Russell reviewed the handout that depicted a comparison of tower sites. Mr. Russell requested the Board's support to negotiate with SBA Towers.

In response to a query from Chairman Blount, Mr. Russell responded that he didn't feel the tower would have a visual impact on Dan Nicholas Park, due to the area being wooded.

Commissioner Chamberlain made an observation that the County "would get very little money" from the deal and that SBA Towers stood to make an excellent profit if the tower served more than one customer (AT&T).

Mr. Russell agreed that once the cost of constructing the tower/facility was absorbed, that over time SBA Towers would benefit. Mr. Russell also mentioned the County had received the "going rate" for the tower SBA had constructed on Dan Street several years back.

Commissioner Chamberlain asked if the tower would help to secure more land around the park. Mr. Russell didn't think so and commented the County would like to have the property owned by the late Dr. Wear.

Commissioner Andrews questioned if the County had any plans for the larger tract of land. Mr. Russell stated the land was purchased to add onto Dan Nicholas Park, in anticipation of possibly building soccer fields.

Commissioner Chamberlain encouraged Mr. Russell to require the poles to be kept as low as possible.

Commissioner Tadlock stated that in addition to the set fee, the County could ask for commission from SBA Towers as other companies sign on to use the tower. Mr. Russell said he could check on this.

By consensus, the Board agreed to allow Mr. Russell to proceed with the negotiations.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Chairman Blount opened the Public Comment Period to entertain comments from the audience. Those that came forward are as follows:

1. Lois Elliott, of China Grove, addressed the Board concerning the County's EMS rules. Ms. Elliott referred to an incident that occurred on June 13, 2002 with her son. Ms. Elliott stated that her son "had been out" for approximately 45 minutes when 911 were called. Ms. Elliott continued by saying "after about 10 rings the dispatcher answered the phone." Ms. Elliott declared the "hello" from the dispatcher to be "real rude." Ms. Elliott said her husband requested the dispatcher to send the First Responders from China Grove and the dispatcher said an ambulance would have to be dispatched.

There being no further comments, Chairman Blount closed the Public Comment Period.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Russell requested that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss a Personnel issue, as well as an Economic Development issue.

Chairman Blount called for a short break and for Executive Session at 10:55 am.

Chairman Blount reconvened the meeting at 11:35 am.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Blount adjourned the meeting at 11:35 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rita K. Foil
Clerk to the Board