

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 7, 2002 – 9:00 AM
J. NEWTON COHEN SR. ROOM, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

Present: Steve Blount, Chairman
Gus Andrews, Vice-Chairman
Arnold Chamberlain, 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 a.m.

Chairman Blount informed the Board that Commissioner Tadlock had broken his ankle over the weekend and would not be able to attend this meeting.

Commissioner Chamberlain provided the Invocation and Commissioner Andrews led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Chairman Blount added a discussion on an update concerning the South Rowan Water project to be held after the presentation from the Parks on the Master Plan.

Chairman Blount also added an item concerning the upcoming Planning Retreat for the Board of Commissioners.

CONSIDERATION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:

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

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Approval of the 12/017/2001 minutes.
- B. Approval of the Proclamation for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- C. Unanimous road name petition for Truck Avenue

COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORTS:

Due to the holidays, there were no Commissioner liaison reports.

APPROVAL OF THE ROWAN COUNTY ANTI-TERRORISM PLAN:

Health Department Director, Leonard Wood, presented the Rowan County Anti-Terrorism Plan and stated that a draft copy of the incident control plan had been presented to the Board in December. Mr. Wood continued by saying the agency normally in command of an emergency site, is the first agency to arrive on the scene. Mr. Wood stated that the plan was compiled from input received from the agencies that would be involved if an act of terrorism should occur.

Wayne Ashworth, Emergency Services Director, stated the plan operates under the same incident command structure used for all other emergencies.

Chairman Blount questioned if the position of the County Chair still appeared within the plan. Mr. Ashworth responded yes, and stated that the Chair could delegate duties as necessary.

Chairman Blount thanked Mr. Ashworth and those involved in the preparation of the plan.

Commissioner Belk made a motion to approve the Rowan County Anti-Terrorism Plan as presented. Commissioner Andrews seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT:

Wayne Ashworth explained that after Hurricane Fran, Governor Hunt declared that a mutual aid agreement was needed between counties for governmental agencies to assist one another in a crisis. Mr. Ashworth stated that the agreement before the Board was the Statewide Emergency Management Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement. Mr. Ashworth reported that approximately forty percent of governmental entities within the state have adopted the agreement. The municipalities within Rowan County that have adopted the agreement are Salisbury, Cleveland, Rockwell and Landis. Mr. Ashworth stated that under the agreement, the county would provide only the help it could afford. The requesting community pays the expenses under the agreement, though a number of times these expenses have been waived. Mr. Ashworth mentioned that the agreement has been approved by the State Attorney General's Office and Mr. Ashworth recommended the county adopt the plan.

County Attorney, John Holshouser, questioned Mr. Ashworth as to whether Art Delaney, County Fire Marshal, had been involved with the process. Mr. Ashworth responded that Mr. Delaney had not.

Commissioner Chamberlain verified that Mr. Ashworth was recommending the plan to the Board of Commissioners.

In response to a query from Commissioner Andrews, Mr. Ashworth responded that the Town of China Grove had not approved the plan.

Commissioner Chamberlain made a motion to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement as presented, followed by a second from Commissioner Andrews. The motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION
MASTER PLAN TO INCLUDE RENOVATIONS TO THE NATURE CENTER
AND APPROVAL FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION TRUST FUND
GRANT:**

Bob Pendergrass, of Rowan County Parks & Recreation, discussed the new bear habitat and then introduced Patrick Roddy, and Scott Osborne, of Johnson Architects to present the master plan to the Board.

Mr. Roddy and Mr. Osborne presented the Board with an overview and sketches of the proposed animal and visitor-friendly center. The architects highlighted the five (5) phases through which the master plan would be completed and presented the Board with copies of the master plan.

Mr. Pendergrass added that the funds would be acquired through grants, one of which was due at the end of January 2002 and would require a 50% match. The grant is for up to \$500,000.00. Mr. Pendergrass stated the Parks staff was confident the \$250,000.00 matching funds would be received through fundraisers. The Board would need to approve for the Parks and Recreation Department to apply for the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grant.

Jim Foltz, Parks & Recreation Department Director, stated that Board approval was needed to amend the Parks & Recreation Master Plan, to include the renovations to the Nature Center, and approval is necessary for the PARTF grant.

Chairman Blount inquired as to whether the plans being presented were the number one priority for the Parks & Recreation Department. Mr. Foltz responded yes.

Commissioner Andrews questioned several items listed on the master plan cost estimate handout, including the Gift Shop/Entry/Restrooms, Nature and Learning Center and the \$750,000 for the Bear Exhibit. Mr. Roddy responded that the line item for the Gift Shop/Entry/Restrooms was for new facilities. The Nature and Learning Center would

consist of upgrading the existing facility. Mr. Roddy continued by explaining the \$750,000 for the Black Bear Exhibit would allow the bears to be placed in a natural habitat and not in cages. Mr. Roddy explained that there are different types of habitats through the different levels of spending. Mr. Roddy stated the idea behind the bear habitat was to make the bears the “signature exhibit” where people could observe and learn about the bears.

In response to queries from Commissioner Andrews, Mr. Foltz stated that visitors to Dan Nicholas Park want to know where the bears are located. Mr. Foltz hesitated on giving a percentage as to how much traffic is generated to the park due to the bears, and reiterated that visitors ask for the bears.

Commissioner Andrews asked about the age of the bears at Dan Nicholas Park, and also about the expected life span for the bears. Mr. Foltz responded that the bears are in their mid-twenties. Mr. Pendergrass stated he had recently read the age of the oldest bear in captivity was 45 years and felt an average life expectancy for the bears at Dan Nicholas Park would be in the mid to late thirties.

Mr. Foltz stated that more bears can be acquired at any time and the bears are given to Dan Nicholas Park free. Mr. Pendergrass explained that only public facilities in North Carolina are allowed to have Black Bears and in situations where bears are orphaned, there are difficulties in finding placement for those orphans.

Commissioner Andrews asked if the concept of the master plan was to create more of a “zoo effect.” Mr. Pendergrass stated the Parks Department is not looking to change the area that is currently being used by the Nature Center but the goal is to improve the existing conditions. Mr. Pendergrass emphasized the project has received strong public support and the goals can be achieved without using tax money.

Mr. Foltz stated that two different groups wishing to furnish two (2) of the projects have already approached the Parks staff. Mr. Foltz stated the Parks Department is looking at the opportunity to get the project started. Mr. Foltz explained that the projects do not have to be completed all at once, but rather as the funds are raised, without ever “tapping” onto the taxpayers.

Mr. Pendergrass described the master plan as being a ten (10) year plan, however, he did not feel it would take ten (10) years for completion.

Chairman Blount asked if the Parks and Recreation Board had endorsed the plan. Mr. Foltz responded yes, and that the Board of Commissioners approval is a requirement to apply for the PARTF grant.

Commissioner Chamberlain verified with Mr. Foltz that the master plan was for ten (10) years in the amount of \$3,796,500 and that the Parks and Recreation Department was not requesting any funds, but was requesting the opportunity to apply for the \$500,000 PARTF grant. Commissioner Chamberlain continued to verify the request before the

Board, by stating of the \$500,000 grant funds, \$250,000 would be matching funds, which Mr. Foltz indicated there were private sources to provide those matching funds. Commissioner Chamberlain also verified that the Board is not approving the master plan but is asking the Board for approval to apply for the grant. Commissioner Chamberlain expressed that he personally “would like to see this happen.”

Commissioner Andrews commended Mr. Foltz and his staff for the work that had been done. Commissioner Andrews expressed his concern that other tracts of land may be available for potential park sites in different areas of the county. Commissioner Andrews explained that he felt it would be difficult to purchase these tracts of land if funds being raised were committed to the projects in the master plan.

Commissioner Belk also commended Mr. Foltz and his staff for the work done on the projects at Dan Nicholas Park. Commissioner Belk stated that she endorsed the project, as it would enhance what the children coming to the park would learn from the interactive experiences.

Commissioner Chamberlain clarified with Mr. Foltz that the request before the Board was the number one priority of Mr. Foltz and the Parks Board.

Commissioner Belk made a motion to approve the amended Parks and Recreation master plan as presented and approval for the Parks and Recreation Department to apply for the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant. Commissioner Chamberlain seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Blount thanked Mr. Roddy and Mr. Osborne for their presentation.

RESOLUTION CONCERNING REDISTRICTING LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS:

Chairman Blount presented a resolution asking legislators to establish a Citizen’s Commission with the responsibility of redistricting the seats in the North Carolina General Assembly and the North Carolina Congressional seats.

Chairman Blount stated that this resolution was suggested to let the Legislators know how upset officials are at the way the lines have been redrawn and to suggest that a commission be set up of citizens to help with that process.

Commissioner Andrews made a motion to approve the resolution as presented followed by a second from Commissioner Chamberlain. The motion carried unanimously.

ADDITION: UPDATE ON THE SOUTH ROWAN WATER PROJECT:

Chairman Blount requested Dave Treme, Salisbury City Manager, to explain the hydraulic modeling and design work that was prepared prior to creating the budget for the South Rowan Water Project. Chairman Blount also requested for Mr. Treme to explain

who created the budget, the process for which budget was created, and why the project is over budget.

Mr. Treme stated that the extension of water lines down Highway 70 and Highway 29 had been a goal of both the City of Salisbury and Rowan County. Mr. Treme stated that the drought had brought the County and City of Salisbury, along with the municipalities of China Grove, Landis and Kannapolis into a partnership to provide a reliable water source in the South Rowan communities, and also provide water capacity and availability down the I-85 corridor.

Mr. Treme stated the City of Salisbury had provided an estimate for Rowan County in the amount \$6,819,519, to construct the water line, to prepare pump station construction modifications, engineering and easements. Mr. Treme continued by stating the bids were opened on October 31, 2001 and the bids on the construction were over by \$600,000. Mr. Treme stated that negotiations were made with the contractor and \$600,000 was “shaved” off and finally reached “some agreement around Christmas.” Mr. Treme stated that his staff had met with county staff, including Mr. Russell and Chairman Blount to present the news. Mr. Treme mentioned that Chairman Blount had asked a lot of questions and that the city had endeavored to provide the answers. Mr. Treme described the results as follows:

- The original estimate for the construction was \$4,381,169, and explained the project was two (2) parts:
Part A: From Salisbury to China Grove
Part B: Connects “the rest of the project”

Mr. Treme reported that Part A was the most important part of the project and the project design was ready for bid. The cost came back in \$342,437 over the estimate on Part A of the project. Mr. Treme stated, in discussions with the contractor, that the reason the cost was over was due to the possibility of rock and being unable to do borings.

Chairman Blount questioned Mr. Treme as to the current bids. Mr. Treme stated that the current bids are \$200,000 over estimate. Chairman Blount stated the estimate for the remainder brought the total to \$342,437.

Mr. Treme stated that the second part of the project is for the pump station construction and the modifications. Mr. Treme informed the Board that initially it was thought to “get by” with three (3) smaller pump stations, estimated at \$ 972,450. Mr. Treme explained that further into the design phase, it was discovered that one (1) large pump station would be required, which would be expanded later, at the cost to the City of Salisbury, to ultimately serve 11.1 million gallons per day. Mr. Treme described the first estimate of a 30-year plan, which would allocate 11.1 million gallons of water to serve the South Rowan corridor, including the towns of China Grove, Landis and Kannapolis. Mr. Treme mentioned that the county was purchasing, with its initial installment, the guarantee from the city that it would deliver the 11.1 million gallons of water at the time it was needed for the South Rowan corridor, and that the city would maintain, operate and bill for the water line. Mr. Treme stated the project will not work without the larger

pump station and that it had not been bid at this point, however the pump station and modifications are anticipated to cost \$1,306,200.

Mr. Treme discussed the easements and the fact that there will be 271 different easements rather than the 170 easements originally thought. Mr. Treme informed the Board that there will be approximately ten easements requiring condemnation and that the average cost of an easement is \$2,500.00. Mr. Treme stated the City of Salisbury will take care of easement costs and the city will hold the county to \$248,300. Mr. Treme stated the city would not ask Rowan County to pay for any additional costs on the line.

Mr. Treme apologized for the overage in the estimates and expressed that in his opinion it was a good investment for Rowan County.

Chairman Blount requested Mr. Treme to explain Chairman Blount's three (3) initial questions.

John Vest, Engineer for the City of Salisbury, reported that City of Salisbury engineers did the preliminary engineering and design based on hydraulic modeling that the city had a consultant produce. Mr. Vest reported that the consultant did not include the total system in the modeling. The consultant did a model on Highway 29 and on Highway 70 but did not do the whole integrated system and this was a factor that led to the increase for the larger pump station.

Chairman Blount asked if the original design could have worked without the Highway 70 demand? Mr. Vest responded yes. Chairman Blount questioned if the additional costs were the responsibility of Highway 70. Mr. Treme stated that because of the difference in the hydraulics of Highway 70, there would be additional costs.

Commissioner Chamberlain questioned if this was known before and was any of the costs a result of the city's effort to deliver water to CP&L. Mr. Treme responded that the CP&L project and the South Rowan project happened at the same time and costs have been attributed that relate to the South Rowan project only. Mr. Treme stated that perhaps the city could have done a better job in providing the county with an estimate for the South Rowan project but had done "the best we know how to do." Mr. Treme declared that the city was not trying to put costs on Rowan County that should have been somewhere else and that he had "gone out of my way to pick up costs."

Commissioner Chamberlain asked if there was any way to reduce the cost of the larger pump station until it becomes necessary to increase to 11.1 million gallons per day. Mr. Treme stated that the city was building a larger station and not initially putting the total pumping capacity of 5 million. Mr. Treme continued by saying this would keep a thirty-year system from being in place for twenty years with "pumps sitting there not being used." Mr. Treme stated that if the demand increases, the demand would help meet the payments.

Commissioner Chamberlain stated he was not aware of the project being done in increments. Mr. Treme commented that “hindsight is 20/20” and had he known the details of this complex project, he would have shared this information with the county. Mr. Treme stated that the county had “demanded a lot and we have tried to deliver.” Mr. Treme stated that he had shared this information with Chairman Blount, Mr. Russell and Don Conner as early as he had known about it.

Commissioner Belk stated that she had some concerns about the overage but the Commissioners had made a promise to the citizens of the county that water would go south. Commissioner Belk felt the Board should live up to the commitment.

Commissioner Andrews said his major concern was that the county had signed on to a project that was estimated at \$6.8 million and now is estimated at over \$10 million. Commissioner Andrews continued to state that mistakes were made, but the burden appeared to be coming back to the taxpayer and those citizens that pay for water in a much bigger way. Overrides are anticipated, but not at 40-50 percent. Commissioner Andrews asked Mr. Treme if the Salisbury City Council received the same information that the project was over the estimation by \$3 million dollars. Mr. Treme responded “yes.” Commissioner Andrews said that he is concerned about future facilities coming to the area that would need major capacity and questioned if the city would request more money for the project.

Mr. Treme shared his thoughts that the money the county contributed to the project is taxpayer’s money and the money that the city put in is from an enterprise fund that is separate from the city taxes. Mr. Treme said that he is looking at a thirty-year period and the major obstacle he sees is who is going to fund the line. The city cannot afford to put in the infrastructure and the county is making this initial investment. The city does not want to put the 11.1 million gallons per day capacity in at first. Mr. Treme discussed the cost and debt to the city for selling water. Mr. Treme stated that through the county’s participation, the South Rowan area will be blessed, the tax base will increase and the city will be in a position to expand the system. Mr. Treme stated that the city would be able to pick up the additional cost as the demand for the system increases and added that the county is being asked to pick up the \$1,010,000 and the city will pick up the volatile easements costs. Mr. Treme stated that the county is being asked to put in the \$1 million with a guarantee that when the demand for 11.1 million gallons is there, the city will be there. Mr. Treme said he feels this is still an excellent opportunity and good investment for the county. Mr. Treme stated that 51 percent is relationship.

Commissioner Andrews again stressed that he looks at this as the Board being the holder of the taxpayer’s money and is concerned about the project going from \$6.8 million to \$10 million. Commissioner Andrews emphasized that the Board would be using taxpayer’s money that would not be recouped and the city money would be recouped through the enterprise fund.

Mr. Treme said that the county would recoup through tax benefits over time by making water available for development in the future.

Commissioner Andrews expressed his concern over the schools being in need of “major money” and the fact of how in years to come, future boards and managers would handle the current decisions made on the water project. Commissioner Andrews continued by pointing out that the Boards had conducted “business” and agreed on a \$6.8 million project with the “possibilities of some overrun.” Commissioner Andrews stated that it is “not business” to come back with a \$3 million overrun. Commissioner Andrews stated that all the parties involved had signed the agreement in great faith and just a few months later, the project is already fifty-percent over. Commissioner Andrews referred to the Highway 70 project and the fact that an additional million dollars was spent “because things changed.” Commissioner Andrews stated, “The project we signed onto, is not the project that we’re getting.”

Mr. Treme stated that the cost the City of Salisbury is asking the county to pay is 14.8% over the original cost. The city will pay costs on easements; the city has guaranteed that when the demand is there for the 11.1 million gallons per day that the city will serve the demand. Mr. Treme declared that the big investment is the line, the pump station and the easements. Mr. Treme stated once these items were paid for, there would be an unprecedented return to the county tax base.

Commissioner Belk asked that once the system is in place, would the county have a countywide “grid system” in place, which would serve Rowan County for future growth. Mr. Treme stated there would be a grid in place which would not serve all of Rowan County but would serve 11.1 million gallons of a projected 40-50 million gallons over thirty years.

Chairman Blount verified that the project is \$2.62 million over the original estimated cost.

Mr. Treme stated that the city is trying to serve the county to make this project happen and the name of the Salisbury Utility Department has been changed to the Salisbury-Rowan Utility Department.

Commissioner Chamberlain stated the Board is committed to put water in South Rowan and down I-85. Commissioner Chamberlain expressed that he wanted to live in Rowan County where growth is slow and smart. Commissioner Chamberlain continued by stating he was thankful that Rowan County did not adopt a countywide water system in 1973. Commissioner Chamberlain queried city staff as to 1) why Rowan County was not informed of the mistake in the estimate two (2) months ago, and, 2) what if the county Board says it will not pay the other \$1,010, 413. Mr. Treme responded that as soon as he had received the bids and negotiated with the contractor and “knocked off about \$600,000 worth of cost,” he contacted Chairman Blount and Tim Russell to discuss the estimate. Mr. Treme stated he generally likes to “come with a problem and a solution.” In response to the second question, Mr. Treme stated the current costs would need to be divided and if not, then their time and effort would have to be spent doing “something else productive for Salisbury and Rowan County.”

Commissioner Andrews asked if the people in the South Rowan area needing the water were aware of the discussion being held at the board meeting. Mr. Treme replied they were not and that his first obligation was to come to his client, Rowan County.

Chairman Blount asked if it would benefit the city to re-bid the project to try and get the cost back down.

Mr. Vest stated that in his experience, he generally does not save money or lower costs to re-bid.

Mr. Treme stated the final decision would be from the county but he would not recommend re-bidding the project.

Chairman Blount stated the estimate overage is “a little over \$2.6” and the city is asking the county to bear \$1,010,000 of the overage. Chairman Blount asked if the agreement were reworked to reflect the change in the price, would the city guarantee this would be the price to “take care of this project.” Mr. Treme responded that he felt the city had already guaranteed that it would produce 11.1 million gallons for the County’s \$7,829,932.

Mr. Treme responded to a request from Chairman Blount that he would instruct the city’s engineers to find all means possible to reduce the costs on the portion of the project that has not yet been bid. Mr. Treme invited Chairman Blount, Tim Russell and Don Conner to sit in on monthly meetings where the project is discussed.

Commissioner Chamberlain stated that Landis and China Grove could not afford to pay more and Commissioner Chamberlain wanted to make sure that these municipalities “are not going to have to bite the bullet.”

Commissioner Andrews asked if the future costs would reflect a higher water cost to these communities due to having to put in the new water lines. Mr. Treme stated that the water rates would be stabilized and that the city would be a reliable supplier if this connection could be made.

Commissioner Andrews mentioned that he had seen it reported in the newspaper quoting John Vest as saying that contract negotiations generated savings of almost \$550,000 allowing the city to stay within the estimated project costs. Mr. Treme said this was not accurate and “was not the context of that.” Mr. Treme said it was the statement made but not the proper context.

Chairman Blount thanked city staff for being present and called for a break at 11:05 a.m.

Chairman Blount reconvened the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

PRESENTATION FROM TERRY OSBORNE, DIRECTOR OF ROWAN VOCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

Terry Osborne, Director of the Rowan Vocational Opportunities, thanked the Board for its patience in payments from the Rowan Vocational Opportunities for the facility on Old Concord Road. Mr. Osborne stated that he presented Leslie Heidrick, Rowan County Finance Director, with a check in the amount of \$123,000, which would now make the amount of the dept repaid to Rowan County \$230,000.

ADDITION: (CONTINUATION) OF THE SOUTH ROWAN WATER PROJECT:

Chairman Blount discussed the need to revise the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the City of Salisbury to reflect the \$1, 010,413 over budget that the county has agreed to pay and the amount of \$2,626,000 that the city has agreed to pay.

Chairman Blount continued to suggest the following additional changes in the MOU:

1. Of the \$1,010,000, only \$209,000 has been confirmed to be over budget. The MOU would need to state that the county would only pay the actual cost, not the estimated cost of the remaining amount, which is close to \$800,000.
2. Rowan County staff would be invited to attend any and all meetings about the South Rowan Water System. Chairman Blount recommended Don Conner to attend these meetings and if Mr. Conner is unable to attend, another staff member is to attend. Chairman Blount stated that he would attend if necessary.

Commissioner Belk asked if staff should attend the meetings concerning Highway 70. Mr. Russell stated that Rowan County does not have a contract on Highway 70. Chairman Blount said that in the future, language in all agreements should include that staff is invited to all meetings.

3. A letter from the city engineer certifying that the engineering fees billed to this project are only for this project.
4. An item in the agreement certifying that increases in the future, to bring the system up to the 11.1 million gallons per day, will be born solely by the City of Salisbury.
5. The project will be completed in a timely manner. Mr. Russell suggested within 12 months or when industry would need it.

Chairman Blount asked the Manager to re-draft the proposal, send copies to the Board to review and then to Mr. Treme to review. Chairman Blount stated that he would like to be able to vote on a revised memorandum at the next Commission meeting.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

Criminal Justice Partnership Program (CJPP) Board:

On a motion by Commissioner Andrews, Judge Charlie Brown was unanimously appointed to replace Judge Anna Mills Wagoner.

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC):

On a motion by Commissioner Chamberlain, Judge Charlie Brown was unanimously appointed to replace Judge Anna Mills Wagoner.

Rowan Transit System (RTS) Advisory Committee:

On a motion by Commissioner Belk the following were unanimously appointed:

Ex-Officio Chairperson: Clyde Fahnestock
Ex-Officio Treasurer: Leslie Heidrick

Three-Year Terms:

Renita Ritchie Rowan County Special Populations
Jim Christy Rowan-Salisbury Schools
Steve Martin Salisbury Transit Division
Terry Osborne Rowan Vocational Opportunities

Two-Year Terms:

Dr. James Cowan Rowan County Health Department
Valerie Patterson Rowan County Social Services
Mary Ann Johnson Abundant Living Adult Day Care

One-Year Terms:

Dr. Esther Winters Piedmont Behavioral Healthcare
Rick Parker Rowan Regional Medical Center
Rita Foil Rowan County Manager’s Office

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

There was no one present for the public comment period.

ADDITION: PLANNING RETREAT:

Chairman Blount reviewed the format for the upcoming Board of Commissioners Planning Retreat to be held on Thursday, February 14, 2002 through Saturday, February 16, 2002. The Board will meet in the J. Newton Cohen, Sr. Room on Thursday to hear

from the schools, groups and individuals etc. On Thursday evening there will be a public hearing to hear from citizens on their visions for Rowan County. Chairman Blount asked the Board to be thinking about issues they would like to discuss at the retreat and those in the community they would like to ask to speak at the public hearing.

There being no further business, Chairman Blount adjourned the meeting at 11:40 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rita K. Foil
Clerk to the Board