

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 3, 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
Frank Tadlock, 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 Chamberlain provided the Invocation and Commissioner Tadlock led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDITIONS:

Chairman Blount requested to add a resolution for Piedmont Behavioral Healthcare.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Blount referenced the letter from Congressman Mel Watt, which addressed concerns at the VA Medical Center in Salisbury.

COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORTS:

Chairman Blount stated that he had briefly attended the School Board meeting this morning.

CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA:

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

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Approval of the 05/20/2002 minutes
- B. Set a public hearing for the Neighborhood Business Zoning Designation
- C. Set a public hearing for Z-08-02 (CUP-10-02), a request for MHO
- D. Set a public hearing for Z-07-02 (CUP-08-02), a request for MHO
- E. Set a public hearing for CUP-22-02 for Family Subdivision in the CBI district, a request from Francis Barbee
- F. Set a public hearing for Unanimous road petitions for Withers Road and Dino Drive
- G. Set a public hearing for Majority road petitions for Withrow Creek Lane, Dusty Farm Road and Sheets Lane
- H. Set a public hearing for Special Consideration for Cabin Creek Road
- I. Set a public hearing for Structure Readdressing
- J. NCDOT request that an 800-ft. extension of SR 1843 Airpark Drive be added to the Secondary Road System for maintenance
- K. NCDOT request that Patrick Drive be added to the Secondary Road System for maintenance
- L. Budget Amendments

UPDATE ON THE NATURE CENTER AT DAN NICHOLAS PARK

Bob Pendergrass, Parks Department, discussed receipt of the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grant for the Nature Center renovations and said the parks department is “ready to move ahead.”

In response to a query from Chairman Blount, Mr. Pendergrass stated that Rowan County was moved from #15 to #3 for consideration of the grant. Chairman Blount inquired who had written the grant and Mr. Pendergrass responded that he had written the grant with assistance from various sources.

Jody Everhart, Parks Board member, thanked the Board of Commissioners, Mr. Pendergrass, and Mr. Foltz for their dedication to the Parks of Rowan County.

Mr. Pendergrass responded to questions from Commissioners Chamberlain and Andrews concerning the required matching funds. Mr. Pendergrass explained that the grant was written for the entire project and the county was responsible for \$250,000.00 in matching funds.

Commissioner Belk made a motion to accept the PARTF agreement followed by a second from Commissioner Tadlock. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF SUGGESTED PLANNING PRIORITIES:

Marion Lytle, County Planner, identified the planning priorities as follows:

1. The top priority is a County Land Use Plan. Mr. Lytle recognized that the Planning Department does not have the staff to begin the process.
2. Area Plans for I-85
3. Subdivision Review Process
4. Protection of Stick Built Subdivisions on High Rock Lake
5. Protection of Stick Built Subdivisions County Wide
6. Growth in South Rowan County
7. Open Space/Farmland Preservation

Chairman Blount questioned the planning process for the I-85 area and the ability to accommodate the large number of residents for the public hearings. Mr. Lytle discussed the process and the possibility of breaking down the area into a “smaller package.”

Chairman Blount asked if Board members were in agreement with the priorities presented by staff.

Commissioner Chamberlain commented that if an outside firm was to be hired to assist with the Land Use Plan, the Board should look at developing criteria for “how long” the firm would be allowed to stay. Commissioner Chamberlain also mentioned rumors of private citizens willing to “put private money into this,” and stated he is not in favor of citizens being perceived as “buying their way in.”

Commissioner Belk stated the Land Use Plan was important to the county and questioned the possibility of pursuing the plan, even under the current budget restraints.

Chairman Blount requested staff to pursue the planning process and to also pursue a subcontractor for the land use process. Chairman Blount stated the Board would adopt the priorities as presented by Planning Staff.

APPROVAL TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR ROAD AND STRUCTURE READDRESSING IN THE ENOCHVILLE AREA:

Mr. Lytle discussed tentative dates in August to hold public hearings to address road and structure readdressing for the South Rowan area. The tentative dates discussed were August 13 and August 20 at Enochville School for 7:00 pm. By consensus, the Board decided to hold the public hearing on August 20th.

Chairman Blount requested to meet with staff in advance to discuss the process for the public hearing.

APPROVAL OF JOINT RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE STATE FUNDING OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS:

Chairman Blount explained that the joint resolution between the County and the School Board, asks the State to provide public education to children in North Carolina, without “passing the buck” to the counties and cities.

Commissioner Andrews made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Commissioner Tadlock seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF JULY COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE:

By consensus, the Board agreed to meet July 1, 2002 and would decide at that time whether to hold a second monthly meeting in July.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Commissioner Chamberlain discussed the Resolution in Support of Piedmont Area Mental Health and explained that each county must send a letter of intent as to whether the county would provide mental health services or stay with an area program. Commissioner Chamberlain stated the Piedmont Board would like to stay with an area authority and that he, personally, would like to see the county become a pilot program.

Commissioner Tadlock made a motion to approve the Resolution as presented. Commissioner Belk seconded the motion.

Commissioner Chamberlain pointed out the Resolution would be effective for three years.

The motion carried unanimously.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

The Board approved the following board appointments:

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board:

Hank Palmer was unanimously reappointed to serve on a motion by Leda Belk.

Centralina Workforce Development Board:

There are two (2) openings for the Private Sector. Chairman Blount suggested the Clerk to advertise these openings.

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council:

Dr. Bob Werstlein was unanimously reappointed to serve on a motion by Commissioner Chamberlain.

The Board will continue to seek someone to serve in the opening for Chief of Police.

City of Salisbury ETJ Planning Board:

Commissioner Tadlock nominated Mr. Len Clark to serve on this board. The motion passed unanimously.

City of Salisbury ETJ Zoning Board of Adjustment:

Aaron Johnson and Yvonne Tracey were unanimously appointed to serve on this board on a motion by Commissioner Belk.

East Gold Hill Fire Commissioner:

Mark Brown was unanimously appointed to serve as Fire Commissioner on a motion by Commissioner Chamberlain.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

With no citizens present to address the Board, Chairman Blount called for a short break at 9:45 am, before the Board began its budget workshop.

Attorney John Holshouser requested to update the Board on a previous issue. Mr. Holshouser stated that Judge Ford had upheld the ZBA ruling concerning the Welter's racetrack as a nonconforming use. Mr. Holshouser informed the Board that the decision was being appealed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rita K. Foil
Clerk to the Board