

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
August 18, 2003 – 7:00 PM
J. NEWTON COHEN, SR. ROOM, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

Present: Steve Blount, Chairman
Gus Andrews, Vice-Chairman
Chad Mitchell, Member
Leda Belk, Member
Frank Tadlock, Member

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

Chairman Blount convened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

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

ADDITIONS

- The Clerk distributed an addition to the Consent Agenda regarding CUP-22-03.
- Chairman Blount added Item 13.1, a discussion on the River Keeper Project.
- Chairman Blount added Item 13.2, a discussion concerning the Economic Development (EDC) presentation to the Chamber of Commerce.
- Chairman Blount stated that Item 0 on the agenda would be the announcement of the Employee of the Month.
- Attorney Holshouser requested an Executive Session to discuss a legal issue.

COMMISSIONERS LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Andrews said the Board of Health is addressing concerns from citizens regarding the treatment of animals at the Animal Shelter. Commissioner Andrews said the county now has a crematory, which is a “major step” in the process of addressing the concerns.

Commissioner Andrews said the Clean Air Committee, under the leadership of Dr. John Wear, is progressing in the organizational stages and that the committee would soon be asking for names of individuals to serve on the committee.

Chairman Blount distributed a copy of an email that he had sent board members regarding the actions of the EDC at its last meeting. Chairman Blount said he would continue to update board members after each monthly EDC meeting.

Commissioner Belk said she had attended a meeting hosted by the Mecklenburg Department of Social Services earlier in the day. Commissioner Belk highlighted new initiatives by the State and expressed hope that Raleigh would help fund the initiatives.

Commissioner Belk reported that Centralina Council of Governments would be hosting a SEQL meeting and said she had encouraged them to ask Chairman Blount to speak concerning Rowan County's Sustainable Community Development Commission.

Rita Foil, Clerk to the Board, provided the Board with an update on the NCACC Conference. Ms. Foil reported that it appears the County "is doing everything we should be doing" concerning economic development.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Chairman Blount mentioned that it was unusual to honor an employee and at the same time bid a fond farewell. Chairman Blount expressed that it was a pleasure and an honor to acknowledge Vicki McCombs as the August Employee of the Month. Chairman Blount said Ms. McCombs had been with the County for twenty-nine-plus years and had worked in various positions in county government. Chairman Blount recalled that Ms. McCombs was one of the first people that "took me by the hand" when he was first elected.

Leslie Heidrick, Finance Director, reviewed the history of Ms. McCombs employment with the County. Ms. Heidrick said Ms. McCombs had played a "lead role" in numerous county projects. Ms. Heidrick said on behalf of the Finance Department (many of whom were in the audience), that it was a "real pleasure" to work with such a "terrific person."

Chairman Blount said on a personal note, that Ms. McCombs had been instrumental in the renovating of the County Administration Building. Chairman Blount said, "If you think this building is attractive, Vicki deserves all the credit."

A round of applause followed Chairman Blount's comments. Chairman Blount presented Ms. McCombs with a certificate of appreciation and asked if she would like to make any comments. Ms. McCombs said that "it will be Vicki did it for the first six months, then it will be Vicki who?"

CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Belk moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, which included the addition of scheduling a public hearing for CUP-22-03. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tadlock and passed unanimously.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following items:

- B. Approval from RCSD to apply for the LLEBG
- C. Set a public hearing for a Unanimous road name petition for Keener Place
- D. Cancellation of the request for a public hearing for CUP-18-03, request for permission of residential storage facility on a vacant lot
- E. Set a Public Hearing for CUP-21-03, a request from Murray Corriher
- F. Approval of the Fee Schedule from the Health Department
- G. Budget Amendments

PRESENTATION ON GEARED UP FOR SUCCESS

Chairman Blount mentioned that the Board had appropriated money into the current budget for a scholarship program to Rowan Cabarrus Community College (RCCC). Chairman Blount turned the meeting over to Dr. Dick Brownell to discuss to Geared Up for Success Grants. Also in attendance were Jerry Chandler, Eddie Myers and Carl Repsher.

Dr. Brownell highlighted the purpose, criteria and comprehensible educational levels of the Geared Up for Success Program. The proposal included:

- \$15,000 be available to support grants up to \$2,000 for qualified students
- \$10,000 to support basic education training programs for qualified students enrolling in a technical or workforce development oriented program
- \$20,000 to support emergency assistance to RCCC students with legitimate financial emergencies
- \$40,000 to support grants of up to \$2,000 for high school graduates enrolling in RCCC technical or workforce development oriented program.

Mr. Chandler provided an overview of the attachments in the agenda packets and reviewed the criteria for eligibility, programs for enrollment, grant selection procedures and the disbursement process.

Mr. Repsher said he “enthusiastically” supported the program and commended the Board for its foresight in providing for the scholarships.

Commissioner Mitchell moved to adopt the proposal as presented. Commissioner Tadlock seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Blount commended Commissioner Tadlock for the idea behind the scholarships.

APPROVAL OF BID FOR THE ROWAN PUBLIC LIBRARY AUTOMATION SYSTEM

Library Director Phil Barton discussed the proposal for an integrated library system for the South Rowan Regional Library and stressed the importance of an automated system.

Mr. Barton mentioned two (2) previous automated systems that had been purchased with non-tax dollars, using funds from an undesignated estate gift. Mr. Barton discussed other funding sources, as well as grants.

Commissioner Mitchell referred to the cost comparisons in the agenda packet and asked if the \$25,000 for the TLC bid would be an annual ongoing cost. Mr. Barton responded that this would normally be an annual maintenance cost and that he would like the charge to continue as such. Mr. Barton said the library had begun receiving recurring state aid, which could be applied to the charge, if necessary.

Commissioner Tadlock moved to approve the request as presented. Commissioner Belk seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION ON THE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES ACCESS PROGRAM EXPANSION

Leonard Wood, Health Department Director, presented the background regarding the Healthy Communities Access Program Grant. Mr. Wood said other local nonprofit agencies that provided healthcare services are also applying for the grant funds.

Mr. Wood said if funding were received, the primary focus would be on medication and pharmacy services. Mr. Wood said he did not anticipate any problems matching in-kind requirements.

Mr. Wood requested the Board's approval to apply for the grant.

Commissioner Andrews moved to approve the request to apply for the grant, followed by a second from Commissioner Belk. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR UNANIMOUS PETITION FOR THE PROPOSED ROAD NAME OF BRIAR LANE

Fredda Greer of the Planning Department presented the Unanimous Petition and presented the background regarding the request.

Ms. Greer reported that Ronnie Safrit had applied for a zoning permit for Tax Parcel 355 138 and it was noted that this would be the third residence on the road. Mr. Safrit was given a road petition, which was signed by all property owners on the road.

Ms. Greer stated that staff recommends approval of Briar Lane.

Chairman Blount opened the public hearing to entertain citizen comment. With no citizens wishing to address the Board, Chairman Blount closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Andrews moved to approve the road name of Briar Lane as requested. Commissioner Tadlock seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

CONTINUATION OF CUP-17-03 BROADCAST TOWER

Chairman Blount said the Board would continue with consideration of CUP-17-03.

Chairman Blount said the Board had received a letter (Exhibit 1) from the applicant's attorney requesting to withdraw the permit application. Chairman Blount said there was a challenge from the attorney for the opposition as to whether "we have the right to do that."

Attorney Sean Walker raised the issue as to whether the applicant could withdraw the application at this point. Mr. Walker said he had read the ordinance and shared his thoughts with Attorney Holshouser.

Mr. Walker read portions of Article 13 on page 61, which set forth the responsibilities of the county boards. Mr. Walker stressed that the public hearing was closed at the previous meeting and that the Board was now at the beginning of deliberations.

Mr. Walker referred to page 33, Section VIII of the ordinance, Item F. Mr. Walker expressed concern that the request had been withdrawn after the public hearing was closed.

Mr. Walker distributed copies of cases (Exhibit 2) regarding rules of statutory interpretation concerning relevant cases. Mr. Walker stressed the distinction was the word "shall." Mr. Walker was of the opinion that it "was too late to withdraw at this point." Mr. Walker said he had spoken with Richard Ducker at the Institute of Government and that Mr. Ducker agreed the word "shall" was very operative in the case.

Mr. Walker requested the Board to take the ordinance and the case law into consideration for determination of the case.

Chairman Blount addressed the attorneys and the applicant, saying that regardless of the determination of the Board on the issue/application, he intended to ask the Board "after the fact" to impose a moratorium on "improval of any future towers." Chairman Blount said the moratorium would include the re-application being processed.

Chairman Blount asked if anyone wished to change their position on the issue. Mr. Walker said he would like to speak with his client before making such a determination.

Chairman Blount called for a short break at 8:00 pm.

Chairman Blount reconvened the meeting at 8:10 pm.

Attorney John Dees, representing the applicant, said the applicant would continue with the request to withdraw the item from consideration.

Mr. Dees said the right to withdraw the request came from the ordinance and read Article XV, Section II, Item H. Mr. Dees also referred to Article IV, Section XII concerning Effects of Approval for conditional use districts. Mr. Dees said the conditional use permit language is attached to the zoning map and constitutes an amendment to the zoning map.

Mr. Dees said under a text or map amendment, he felt the applicant had the right to withdraw the application at anytime prior to a final decision by the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Dees said, "This conditional use permit consideration in effect amends the zoning map, therefore we're back under that provision." Mr. Dees said based on the issues heard "tonight" he felt it was optimal for the Board to receive all fair information from both sides.

Mr. Walker said he did not oppose the applicant's motion to withdraw and said for the record that he does not agree with the reason.

Chairman Blount said he would add for the record, "I totally disagree with the reasoning behind that but I do agree with the right to withdraw based on our historic actions concerning other zoning requests, we've set a precedent that would allow you to withdraw." Chairman Blount referred to State Statutes that allow the Board to allow the withdrawal up to the last minute, prior to the Board taking a vote.

Chairman Blount said Attorney Holshouser had advised the Board that it could accept the applicant's request to withdraw the application and therefore the request to withdraw is accepted by the Board.

Chairman Blount explained that the request and the action were approved by the Chairman; it was not a motion and therefore a vote was not necessary. Attorney Holshouser confirmed that the issue was "simply taken off the table."

Chairman Blount distributed a handout (Exhibit 3) and presented the Board with a request to consider a moratorium. Chairman Blount reviewed the handout and discussed two (2) areas of concern within the current ordinance:

1. Towers are allowed and are an accepted hazard to flight.
2. Visual impacts on the existing area.

Chairman Blount suggested that the Board impose a six (6) month moratorium for consideration of CUP's for any towers located within five (5) miles of the center point of any existing airports in Rowan County.

Chairman Blount said he had specific text amendments to be considered by the Planning Staff and the Planning Board.

Chairman Blount asked Attorney Holshouser's opinion regarding holding a public hearing prior to the implementation of a moratorium. Attorney Holshouser said that under the "general police power" of the Board, a public hearing was not necessary when the Board felt the health, safety or general welfare of the citizens was being imposed upon.

Chairman Blount said he would like to meet the requirement of holding the public hearing. Chairman Blount suggested that the public hearing be scheduled as the first agenda item for the next Board meeting.

Commissioner Andrews moved that a public hearing be scheduled as the first agenda item for the next Board meeting to consider the imposition of a moratorium on the construction of any additional towers within a five (5) mile radius of existing airports in Rowan County. Commissioner Belk seconded the motion.

Mr. Russell said the Board needed to define "airport" and questioned the impact of the definition regarding the moratorium. Attorney Holshouser agreed that "airport" does need to be defined. Chairman Blount said this definition would be addressed in his request to staff.

Mr. Russell asked if the moratorium should be extended to new airports until the issue is resolved. Mr. Russell emphasized that a "grass strip airport could be created overnight."

In response to a query from Chairman Blount, Mr. Lytle said airports are not permitted uses in the RA District.

Mr. Russell said he was unsure how the county would monitor "grass strips" and when they were created.

Commissioner Tadlock asked if helicopter pads would be addressed. Chairman Blount said the motion specifically said "airports" and he was unsure if the FAA regarded a helipad as an airport.

Chairman Blount asked Commissioner Andrews if it would be acceptable to add heliports to the motion. Commissioners Andrews and Belk agreed to add heliports to the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Blount said copies of his comments were also available to the attorneys.

DISCUSSION 2006-2012 TIP – REVIEW PRIORITY LIST AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS

Chairman Blount recognized there were a number of citizens in the audience who were present to speak regarding the condition of Old Beatty Ford Road. Chairman Blount explained that the public hearing regarding the TIP Plan had been held at the last meeting and that a Public Comment Session is held at the end of the meeting.

Chairman Blount pointed out that any comments made during the Public Comment Session would obviously not “have a great deal of affect” if the TIP recommendations were already approved.

Chairman Blount said if there were no objections from Board members, he would allow one (1) citizen to speak concerning Old Beatty Ford Road.

Chairman Blount mentioned that TIP was not generally concerned with repairs to pavement and TIP focused on addition of roads and paving and widening of roads.

1. Randall Smith of 20535 Old Beatty Ford Road in Gold Hill, addressed the Board and distributed photographs that depicted the condition of Old Beatty Ford Road, as well as a petition.

Mr. Smith said the section of Old Beatty Ford Road between Hwy 52 and Stokes Ferry Road was “broke and it needs to be fixed.” Mr. Smith asked those who had participated in signing the petition to please stand. Mr. Smith discussed dangerous accidents that had occurred and highlighted specific problems captured in the photographs. Mr. Smith read the petition, which contained seventy-six (76) signatures.

Chairman Blount thanked Mr. Smith for his presentation, as well as those in the audience for their attendance. Chairman Blount said the Board would pass the concerns along to the DOT. Chairman Blount said that the County Manager and Planning Staff would review and discuss the issue with the DOT. Chairman Blount said the Board would support efforts to expedite repairs and/or repaving of the road.

Chairman Blount responded to Mr. Smith’s concerns pertaining to funding for road repairs. Chairman Blount emphasized that the county does not budget “a penny” for road repairs and stressed that the repairs are paid for by the state. Chairman Blount said the Board does not have the authority to “tell” the DOT which roads to pave or repair.

Commissioner Andrews said the situation appears to be more dangerous than has ever been presented to the Board and felt the Board should move on the issue immediately. Commissioner Andrews said that by consensus, the Board could declare its concerns for the safety of the public on the road.

Mr. Smith declared that someone would have to take accountability when a fatality occurs on the road. Mr. Smith encouraged the Board to go look at the road. Mr. Smith questioned what the Board planned to do in response to the presentation.

Chairman Blount said if the Board planned to get involved with directing the DOT on which sections “need to be done before other sections, then we need to look at all the sections.”

Commissioner Andrews stressed that if the Board could assist in speeding up the process through the Board’s contacts, the effort should be made on any road proven to be dangerous.

Commissioner Tadlock said the issue had been well documented and agreed with Commissioner Andrews that the Board could take the information to the proper individuals to be addressed.

In response to a query from Commissioner Belk, Mr. Lytle said that TIP does not speak to any routine maintenance, but did target widening roads. Commissioner Belk requested that Mr. Lytle ask if this portion of the road would meet the criteria needed for the additional funds that had been allocated for Rowan County.

Chairman Blount repeated his earlier statement that Planning Staff and the County Manager would review and discuss the issue with the DOT, sharing the photographs, petition and concerns. Chairman Blount said the Board would do what it could to “encourage the DOT to take some action.”

Mr. Smith thanked the Board for its time.

Mr. Lytle presented the background in the Staff Report regarding the 2006-2012 TIP Draft.

Mr. Lytle highlighted the potential additions to the TIP as follows:

- I-85 Interchange in Southern Rowan County
- Old Beatty Ford Road
- Grants Creek Greenway

Mr. Lytle said there was no legal requirement for holding a public hearing on the issues but said it would be good to schedule a public hearing.

Chairman Blount pointed out that funding for the addition of the greenway would come from a “different pot of money” and would not take away from other road projects.

Discussion ensued regarding the TIP priority list. Mr. Russell pointed out that Priority #3 should read “unfunded” regarding construction.

The Board endorsed adding the I-85 Interchange in Southern Rowan County, as well as funding for the Greenway.

Chairman Blount suggested putting the improvements for Old Beatty Ford Road near the bottom of the list.

Mr. Lytle confirmed to Chairman Blount that he would pass the information to the South Rowan MPO.

UPDATE ON ROAD CLOSING

Due to illness, Don Conner, Director of Environmental Services was unable to make a presentation regarding Erwin Temple Church Road closing. The presentation was rescheduled for the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF BID ON PORTER ROAD COMMERCIAL PARK & AIRPORT PROJECT

Mr. Russell reported on the bids received for three (3) projects:

- Taxiway Extension at the airport
- Porter Road Industrial Park Water and Sewer into the facility
- The entrance road into Porter Road Industrial Park

Mr. Russell informed the Board that three (3) bids were received for two (2) of the projects, however, only two (2) bids were received regarding the entrance road into the industrial park. Mr. Russell said the law required the project to be re-submitted for bids and the bids were scheduled to be opened on August 26, 2003.

Mr. Russell said the recommendation for the Taxiway Extension was for the lowest bid in the amount of \$173,719.50 from Carolina Siteworks.

Mr. Russell said the recommendation for the water/sewer facilities was for the lowest bid in the amount of \$173,582.96 from Hickory Sand Company

Commissioner Belk moved to approve the recommended bids as presented by the Manager. Chairman Blount seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

UPDATE ON THE SCALE OF THE TAX-FORECLOSED PROPERTY (FORMER SUPERIOR YARN/CARTEX MILL)

Mr. Russell explained that in August of 2001, Rowan County and the City of Salisbury had taken possession of the former Superior Yarn/Cartex Mill property as a result of a tax foreclosure.

Mr. Russell showed photographs of the mill and reported the amount owed in taxes, fees and legal services was \$246,858.00. Mr. Russell said because of the tax structure, Rowan County owns 52% of the property and the City of Salisbury owns 48%.

Mr. Russell distributed photographs and said the building at one time had “some value,” but as a result of a fire apparently set by vagrants, the building has “no value.” Mr. Russell said the county had received two (2) bids to demolish the property. One bid from Kepley Grading Company was to purchase the entire parcel for \$2,500 with the assurance that the site would be cleared of all debris.

Mr. Russell requested that the Board approve the sale to Kepley Grading Company upon approval by the City of Salisbury. Mr. Russell said if approved by the City of Salisbury, Attorney Holshouser would advertise for an upset bid.

Commissioner Andrews referred to the Cost Sheet and questioned the Commissioner’s Fee listed in the amount of \$12,340.00. Mr. Russell responded that the fee was for the Commissioner assigned to handle the foreclosure for the courts.

Commissioner Andrews felt the property was overall a “pretty valuable piece of property” and that he was comfortable with the upset bid process.

Commissioner Mitchell moved to approve the request as submitted by the County Manager followed by a second from Commissioner Belk. The motion passed unanimously.

In response to a query from Chairman Blount, Attorney Holshouser reviewed the upset bid process.

UPDATE ON SUMMIT CORPORATE CENTER

Chairman Blount reminded the Board that at the last meeting, the Board had discussed the EDC presentation concerning alternative sites for retail development. Chairman Blount opened the floor for Commissioners comments concerning the issue.

Commissioner Belk said the Board had agreed at its retreat that it was “time to make this park a success.” Commissioner Belk recalled previous presentations that prompted Commissioners Belk, Tadlock and Mitchell to visit other parks in other counties that dealt with “heavy retail.”

Commissioner Belk continued to review the history of presentations and discussions concerning Summit Corporate Center.

Commissioner Belk proposed the following:

- Move ahead with a mix of commercial support business on Sites I and II, including but not limited to office, flex space, banks, restaurants, and hotels.

Commissioner Belk suggested that an outside developer, in cooperation with the county's efforts, work on this portion of the park's development.

- Commissioner Belk suggested dedicating "the rest of Phase I to strictly industrial development." Commissioner Belk continued by saying if the Board could agree, the County Manager and staff should be asked to determine which outside experts could best make the concept work. Commissioner Belk described the scope of the work as including design, marketing, working with a broker and other necessary steps to complete the project.
- Commissioner Belk said after the Board had been briefed on options, staff could develop an RFP in order to begin the process to hire the expert assistance needed for the project.

Commissioner Belk said she offered her suggestions in the form of a motion.

Chairman Blount repeated and verified that the motion was for a decision to use Sites I and II for Commercial Support Business; use the remainder of the park for Industrial development and with that decision made, ask staff to investigate what outside resources would be available to make that happen. Chairman Blount said at some point staff would provide the Board with an RFP to purchase the services.

Commissioner Belk confirmed the motion to Chairman Blount.

Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion.

Commissioner Belk said that it was time for the Board to follow up with development of the park and stressed that the county was "in dire need of jobs." Commissioner Belk said there were developers and brokers available to assist in developing the park according to the Board's vision. Commissioner Belk emphasized that the Board should move forward for the citizens of the county.

Chairman Blount applauded the efforts of Board members who had gone out on their own to research the options for the park.

Commissioner Andrews said he felt better with the proposal as opposed to the retail aspect. Commissioner Andrews said the concern he had with the motion was hiring of "outside sources to do what is a basic fundamental of putting the package together." Commissioner Andrews felt the Board and County Manager could work through the planning steps and proceed as to how to sell the property, as opposed to hiring an outsider.

Chairman Blount verified with Commissioner Belk that the motion called for staff to investigate what expertise is available. Staff would make those recommendations to the Board and at that time the Board would discuss whether to contract with a broker or hire an expert.

Commissioner Andrews said this "wasn't what I heard."

Chairman Blount clarified the motion to Commissioner Andrews and reviewed the history of Sites I and II, explaining that several years back the Haden Group had been hired to present a plan for Commercial use. Chairman Blount said at the retreat that the Board had also discussed the option of allowing retail as a use in the park but had since pulled retail “off the table.” Chairman Blount said the Board was back “at the point where we were several years ago.”

Commissioner Andrews asked if there was pertinent information that indicated a demand “at this particular junction” for Commercial development on the front part of the property.

Chairman Blount responded that the type of information Commissioner Andrews was questioning, “might be part of the expert advice that we get from staff.”

At Commissioner Andrews request, the Clerk to read the motion.

Commissioner Andrews stressed, “It sounds to me like the plan might is in place.”

Chairman Blount said there are three (3) steps:

- “The first step is the motion to head in that direction, a mixture of Commercial Support on Sites I and II, Industrial in the rest of the park.”
- “The second part of the motion is to ask staff to investigate the experts available to make that plan work.”

Commissioner Andrews requested further discussion at this point, questioning if “the experts to make that work will be the experts that deal in their end of it. The retail is not going to be the expert that we hire to try to make that work because that’s not their entity.” Commissioner Andrews asked if the expert would market the property and make a commission off the property once it’s sold.

Mr. Russell said this could be a choice for the Board. Mr. Russell said another scenario is for the county to “make the financial investment and do it ourselves.” Mr. Russell concurred with Commissioner Andrews that a “need” should be determined.

Commissioner Mitchell said he understood that up until this point, the Board had ruled out Commercial development.

Chairman Blount reviewed Sites I and II and the site possibilities. Chairman Blount stressed that the Board needed someone who knows the markets to advise the Board.

Mr. Russell felt the first step was to “bring Jim Haden back in” to determine if the market is right. Commissioner Belk added that this was the intent of her motion.

Commissioner Tadlock said his intent in supporting the motion is to allow staff to explore the options, have a workshop, have presenters to come in and evaluate the options.

Commissioner Tadlock verified with Commissioner Belk that the motion was only giving staff the “green light” to involve experts in order to advise the Board of its options.

In response to a query from Commissioner Andrews pertaining to the covenants, Chairman Blount said there was “nothing in the covenants that says this park is only for Industrial use.”

Chairman Blount simplified the motion as follows: “That our preliminary determination is that we will use Sites I and II for Commercial support facilities and the remainder of the park for Industrial. The second part of the motion is that we ask staff to review the available expertise that is available to help us make the park a success and will bring those presentations and recommendations back to us as a Board, so that we can decide which help we want to incorporate.” Chairman Blount said that with Commissioner Belk’s permission, he would “drop the part about the RFP.” Commissioner Belk consented.

The simplified motion was approved unanimously.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee

Commissioner Belk nominated Robert Knox and Darrell Nichols to serve as the Full-time Farmers on the Committee. The nominations were unanimously approved.

Commissioner Belk nominated Kevin Fisher. Chairman Blount nominated Hall Steele.

Commissioner Andrews called for discussion regarding the applicants. Commissioner Belk provided the background on Kevin Fisher.

Commissioner Tadlock questioned the residency of Hall Steele. Chairman Blount said Mr. Steele’s primary residence is in Rowan County.

Upon being put to a vote, Kevin Fisher was appointed to serve on the committee.

Chairman Blount said that he would serve as the County Commissioner appointee. Commissioner Andrews jokingly requested that the Chairman provide the Board with his background. Chairman Blount asked for a nomination to appoint the following:

- Edwin Hammill - Large Rowan County Landowner residing in NC
- James Taylor - Banker/Financial expertise in farm finance
- Bruce Rider - NRCS Board Member
- Steve Blount - Board of Commissioners designee
- Steve Johnson - Planning Board designee
- Darryl Corriher - SCDC designee
- Jason Walser - LandTrust designee
- Bill Wagoner - EDC designee

Commissioner Andrews moved to approve the nominations. The motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Tadlock requested that Bruce Miller be considered in the future if an opening on the committee becomes available. Chairman Blount said Mr. Miller could possibly be considered to fill the slot as the Commissioner's designee, at a later date.

Chairman Blount asked that Marion Lytle advise the Clerk when he would be ready to respond to a request for applications.

JCPC

Commissioner Belk moved to approve Rosie Allen. The motion carried.

Rowan County Rescue Squad Board

Commissioner Belk provided the Board with Victoria Slusser's qualifications to serve on the board. Commissioner Belk moved to approve Victoria Slusser. The motion carried.

Rowan County Housing Authority

Commissioner Tadlock moved to appoint Zell Setzer and the motion carried.

Salisbury Rowan Human Relations Council

There were no applications for the opening on the council.

HOMELAND SECURITY GRANTS

Mr. Russell said the Rowan County was a recipient of several grants for Homeland Security and as part of the agreement, the County is required to set a "working group of individuals who are experts in this field." The group would provide the Board with recommendations as to how the grant funds are to be distributed.

Mr. Russell referred to the handout in the agenda packet, which reflected the fourteen (14) recommended individuals for the working group.

Mr. Russell said the Board would make decisions regarding the recommendations from the group.

Commissioner Belk moved to approve the list for establishment of the committee as presented by the Manager. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.

In response to Chairman Blount, Commissioner Belk said she was interested in serving as the liaison for the committee.

The motion passed unanimously.

ADDITIONS

River Keeper

Chairman Blount referred to the handout regarding the Yadkin River Basin Group and noted a response from John Wear, which indicates an interest in pursuing the establishment of the Yadkin River Basin Group.

Chairman Blount said the Board might be asked in the future to become involved with the issue.

EDC Presentation to Chamber of Commerce

Chairman Blount referred to the last Board meeting in which he had distributed an outline regarding his suggestions for the presentation to the Chamber.

Chairman Blount said he had not received any requests for additions or changes to his suggestions and encouraged the Board to provide him with ideas and input. Chairman Blount added that if he did not receive any comments by the next Board meeting he would assume that the Board agreed with his current suggestions.

Commissioner Andrews said he liked the suggested format and said he would like to be involved.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no citizens present to address the Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into Executive Session at 10:10 pm for the purpose of discussing a legal issue.

The Board returned to Open Session at 10:25 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairman Blount adjourned the meeting at 10:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rita K. Foil, CMC
Clerk to the Board