

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
October 4, 2004 – 9:00 AM
J. NEWTON COHEN, SR. ROOM, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

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

Tim Russell, County Manager, Rita Foil, Clerk to the Board, John Holshouser, County Attorney and Leslie Heidrick, Finance Director were also present.

Chairman Andrews convened the meeting at 9:00 am.

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

ADDITIONS

There were no additions to the agenda.

LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Belk mentioned the successful grant writing efforts of several fire departments. Commissioner Belk reported that the Miller Ferry department received a grant for fire fighters safety in the amount \$90,049; Salisbury received a grant for \$313,000 and Woodleaf received \$112,815 for the purchase of a rapid intervention truck. Commissioner Belk praised the commitment of the departments to improve the quality services to the citizens.

Commissioner Belk extended her appreciation to the Department of Social Services (DSS) for the written protocol implemented for seniors.

Commissioner Belk discussed the success of Autumn Jubilee held at Dan Nicholas Park during the weekend and expressed appreciation to the staff at the Parks for all their hard work.

CONSIDERATION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Mitchell asked to pull item F for discussion.

Mr. Russell asked to delay the discussion regarding item F until after Jim Christy presented Item 5 on the agenda from the Rowan-Salisbury Schools. Chairman Andrews said item F would be considered as item 5B.

Commissioner Mitchell moved to approve the Consent Agenda, minus item F. Commissioner Blount seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Approval of the 9/20/2004 Minutes
- B. Approval of the 9/21/2004 Minutes
- C. Approval to set a public hearing to update the existing Emergency Management Ordinance and to adopt a County State of Emergency Ordinance.
- D. Approval of NC DOT request to add Mile Long Road to the State Secondary Road System for Maintenance
- E. Approval to set a public hearing for Z-18-04 request for Zoning Text Amendments
- F. *Approval of change orders for the Rowan Salisbury School System Bond Construction Projects*
- G. Budget Amendments

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL FOR THE WORK FIRST PLAN

Sandra Wilkes, Director for DSS, presented the "Rowan County Department of Social Services Work First Plan" for July 1, 2005-June 30, 2007 and to request the Board's approval.

Ms. Wilkes mentioned that the Board approved an advisory committee to review and recommend any revisions for the current Work First Plan. Ms. Wilkes said the consensus of the committee was "the plan has worked well and no changes are needed." Ms. Wilkes said a draft of the plan was made available to the public and no comments were received.

Ms. Wilkes informed the Board that Rowan County's Work First Plan would be included in the State plan.

Commissioner Mitchell referred to the statistics listed in Item C on page 5 and asked how many individuals on the Work First program have a college education and/or a high school diploma. Ms. Wilkes did not have the answer readily available but estimated approximately 50% have a high school education.

Ms. Wilkes said most employers require a high school diploma or GED and the Work First Plan assists with this education.

Commissioner Mitchell questioned the decrease in the caseloads. Ms. Wilkes responded that the caseloads have dramatically decreased since the implementation of the Welfare Reform in 1997. Ms. Wilkes said there are currently 463 active cases and in 1997 there were over 1400 cases. Ms. Wilkes highlighted the Work First orientation process and said, "There are lots and lots of strings attached to getting Work First."

Commissioner Belk pointed out that with the caseload "going down," personnel had been adjusted to use staff where there are other needs. Ms. Wilkes reported that the Personnel Commission had approved the reclassification of the Work First staff to Food Stamp and Medicaid staff.

Commissioner Mitchell referred to page 6 and asked how many of the Work First recipients report transportation issues as a barrier for employment. Ms. Wilkes said, "Almost all of them do." Ms. Wilkes said various funding resources provide assistance for gas, car maintenance, bus tickets or reimbursement to "friends" who provide transportation during the job search process.

Commissioner Mitchell asked if more dentists in Rowan County could be encouraged to accept Medicaid. Ms. Wilkes responded that there are ongoing plans to encourage dentists to accept Medicaid. Ms. Wilkes said the Health Department has an excellent program for dental care to children from low-income families or those receiving Work First assistance.

Chairman Andrews mentioned that he had served on the Health Board and said it had been "very difficult" to get dentists throughout the area to accept Medicaid. Chairman Andrews agreed that the program at the Health Department had been "great for our children."

Chairman Andrews expressed appreciation to those involved in the study of the Work First plan and he praised the success of the program.

Commissioner Belk moved to accept the Work First Plan as presented. Commissioner Blount seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL FOR NEW FUNDS FOR CPS POSITION AT DSS

DSS Director Sandra Wilkes requested approval of a new position for a Child Protective Service position (Social Worker III). Ms. Wilkes explained that the State had provided approximately \$5 million in funding to counties for the purpose of adding Child Protective Social Workers. Ms. Wilkes said the additional staff would bring the worker/caseload ratio to the state standard of 1:12.

Ms. Wilkes said Rowan County is currently not included in the Multi Response System (MRS) but would be phased in over the next two (2) years. Ms. Wilkes explained the protocol for suspected child abuse and said the workers should have no more than twelve (12) cases at one time. Ms. Wilkes said reports for issues such as lack of medical attention, filthy homes, etc. are handled differently and are assessed by workers. The workers connect the families to various community resources that assist in correcting the problem. Ms. Wilkes said the workers handling assessment situations should have no more than ten (10) cases at any one time. Ms. Wilkes said the MRS provides counties the opportunity to choose one (1) of the two (2) approaches.

Ms. Wilkes said the results of a study conducted by the State indicated that an additional sixty-six (66) workers were needed in counties that were using the MRS approach, with 23 new positions needed in counties such as Rowan, which were only dealing with the forensic investigations and needed to meet the ratio of one (1) worker to twelve (12) cases. Ms. Wilkes said Rowan County fell short of that ratio by one (1) worker. Ms. Wilkes said the position was classified as a Social Work III with a starting salary of \$33,618 and the State would provide \$66,000 to support the position for the remainder of the fiscal year. Ms. Wilkes said the position should be established by October 15, 2004 and that no additional county funds would be needed.

Ms. Wilkes asked the Board to accept the funds to create the new position that would allow DSS to meet the State standards. Ms. Wilkes continued to explain that these funds might not be available next fiscal year, at which time a budget request would need to be submitted to the Board as part of the DSS Budget. Ms. Wilkes said acceptance of the funds also meant agreement to the terms listed in the agenda packet.

Ms. Wilkes explained that this position was needed due to the increase in new referrals and one employee currently out on FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act).

Commissioner Mitchell questioned Ms. Wilkes regarding her "feeling" as to whether the State would attempt to continue to fund the position. Ms. Wilkes said that due to the State implementing the MRS, more workers would be needed to handle the "assessment type" cases. Ms. Wilkes felt the State was committed to ensure that counties had the necessary staff to meet the worker/caseload ratio. Ms. Wilkes said if the State would not continue to fund MRS and it became the County's responsibility, she felt it would become part of the maintenance of effort county fund. Ms. Wilkes also mentioned another source of funds that would require 25% funding by the County.

Commissioner Mitchell referred to the significant caseload of Cabarrus County and asked how they were dealing with the caseloads. Ms. Wilkes responded that a Child Protective Services Report Card had been generated that compared

counties according to the number of reports that are made, screened, investigated and substantiated. Ms. Wilkes said the report card contained no consistency. Ms. Wilkes said she was unsure what was happening in Cabarrus County but said she felt people in Rowan County are aware of the need to file CPS reports.

In response to queries from Commissioner Tadlock, Ms. Wilkes said she anticipated having a trained worker in place sometime in December. Ms. Wilkes said the funds would be available for the current fiscal year and is reimbursed to the county.

Commissioner Belk made a motion to approve the new funds for the CPS position at DSS and realizing that if the funds were not forthcoming, the issue would become a budget item next year. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion passed unanimously.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO PRECEED WITH THE AMPHITHEATER PROJECT AND ADDITIONAL LANDSCAPING AS PART OF THE NEW SOUTH ROWAN LIBRARY

Rowan County Library Director Phil Barton requested the Board's approval to proceed with the amphitheater project and additional landscaping for the new South Rowan Library. Mr. Barton explained that the original plans for the South Rowan Library did include an outdoor amphitheater, but the project was delayed until staff was assured adequate funding would be available. Mr. Barton explained that \$196,000 is left over in construction costs, which included \$49,600 in site preparation funds.

Mr. Barton said that the new library was financially in "very good shape." Mr. Barton said construction costs were under budget and that he was currently coordinating the furniture and technology equipment acquisitions.

Mr. Barton said that the amphitheater project was estimated at \$150,000 and the additional landscaping was estimated at \$25,000. The work would require approximately \$9,600 in additional architectural fees, of which \$7,600 is already budgeted. Mr. Barton estimated the total additional for this work to be \$177,000. Mr. Barton requested to reallocate approximately \$19,000 in remaining construction funds for furnishings and equipment. Mr. Barton said the library would not proceed if the project came in "too much over budget."

In response to a query Commissioner Blount, Mr. Barton described the amphitheater as a round design with concrete seating and planting for acoustics. Mr. Barton said the entrance blends in with the library design. Mr. Barton said the restroom accommodations were too costly and were dropped.

Commissioner Blount mentioned the proposed Greenway system being close to the amphitheater and asked if the landscaping would be considered for future

integration with the Greenway. Mr. Barton said the proposed Greenway is currently proposed to be behind and below the amphitheater.

Mr. Barton confirmed to Commissioner Tadlock that the request was not for additional funds but for funds already budgeted.

Chairman Andrews expressed concern with the county appropriating funds for "landscaping down the road." Mr. Barton clarified that the proposal was for an additional \$25,000 in landscaping and verified that the proposed figure of \$25,000 was above budget for landscaping. Mr. Barton said he could come back with a proposed plan if the Board wanted to "hold off" on the landscaping.

Chairman Andrews pointed out that everyone knew about the amphitheater being part of the original plan but said he had a problem with setting aside \$25,000 for possible landscaping needs.

Commissioner Belk requested clarification regarding the plan for different landscaping stages. Mr. Barton said, "We don't have the plan at this time because I couldn't authorize the architects to proceed with the plan." Mr. Barton suggested that he could discuss the landscaping with the architects and bring the plan back to the Board.

Commissioner Blount pointed out that the funds would be spent and not just be "sitting there." Commissioner Blount said the landscaping would be broken down into phases and "they would do whatever phases they could do with the \$25,000." Mr. Barton said that is what he meant and stressed that the \$25,000 would not just "sit there."

Commissioner Blount moved to approve the amphitheater as presented and requested that Mr. Barton bring back plans for the amphitheater before it is built. Commissioner Blount moved for Mr. Barton to get a preliminary plan for the landscaping and present the plans to the Board as a proposal. Commissioner Blount added approval of the \$19,000 to the motion for the furnishings and equipment. Commissioner Tadlock seconded the motion.

Chairman Andrews asked if the furnishings had been approved at a previous meeting. Mr. Barton said the Board had approved the original bids for furnishings but explained that everything had not been included, such as porch furniture. Mr. Barton said he does not include "every single item" in the original request in order to keep the projects within budget.

Commissioner Blount restated the motion to approve planning for the amphitheater based on the proposed dollar figures, to bring the plan back to the Board for final approval. Commissioner Blount said the second part of the motion was Mr. Barton to present the Board with a detailed proposal for the

landscaping and the furnishings. Commissioner Tadlock seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Barton reported that South Rowan Library was scheduled to open for the public on Monday, November 15, 2004. Mr. Barton invited the Board to attend a party on Saturday evening, November 13, explaining that the party was to honor all those who had contributed to the library project. Mr. Barton also invited the Board to attend the grand opening from 2-5 pm on Sunday, November 14 and the dinner beginning at 6:30 pm on Sunday evening.

Chairman Andrews expressed appreciation for the fund-raising efforts for the new library.

OFFER OF PROPERTY FROM THE ROWAN/SALISBURY SCHOOLS AND DISCUSSION OF ITEM "F" FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

Jim Christy, Assistant Superintendent of the Rowan/Salisbury Schools (RSS) said the school system owns property that is adjacent to West Rowan Middle School. Mr. Christy explained that the tract includes approximately four (4) acres of land as well as a house and was part of the property acquired when the schools built the West Rowan Middle School.

Mr. Christy said that the RSS no longer feel that this property is necessary for public school purposes and in accordance with Chapter 115C-518 of the Public School Law, RSS would like to offer the property to the Board of Commissioners for a fair market price or at a price negotiated between the two (2) boards.

Commissioner Belk said the site might be appropriate for future EMS expansion and she asked the Board to consider allowing staff to negotiate with the school system for the property. Commissioner Belk mentioned that the site would provide access points for EMS service in the western portion of the county.

Chairman Andrews asked if the house was suitable for an EMS station. County Manager Tim Russell said staff had looked at the house and reported it to be in need of major repairs. Mr. Russell said staff had suggested it might be cheaper to tear the house down and rebuild an EMS station. Mr. Russell agreed with Commissioner Belk that the property was in a great location.

Commissioner Belk said she would like for staff enter into negotiations if possible.

Chairman Andrews recalled a prior presentation from EMS that the response times for the western area was critical. Chairman Andrews said the location of the property could be an ideal setting.

Mr. Russell said the EMS plan showed a potential site "further out." Mr. Russell said the issue is with the value of the house.

Chairman Andrews suggested that the Board negotiate the possibility of receiving the land back to the county.

Commissioner Tadlock suggested that staff study the issue and present the Board with a recommendation.

Commissioner Belk moved to accept the property for proposal for discussion and to allow staff to proceed for acquisition.

Commissioner Tadlock moved to accept the offer as an option for the school board; and to ask staff to study how the site would benefit EMS services, pertaining specifically to the value of the house. Commissioner Tadlock asked that staff report back to the Board with a recommendation. Commissioner Belk seconded the motion.

Commissioner Belk noted that she was withdrawing her motion due to the clarification provided in Commissioner Tadlock's motion.

Mr. Christy said the Board of Education currently had an offer from an individual for the appraised value of the property. Mr. Christy said the property was being surveyed and there might be additional property on the west side of the house that would eliminate the need for tearing down the "present structure." Mr. Christy was uncertain how much additional property was available until the survey could be completed.

In response to concerns from Commissioner Tadlock, Commissioner Blount pointed out that the Board of Commissioners must reject the offer from the school system before the property could be sold to "someone else."

Upon being put to a vote, the motion on the floor passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda Item "F"

Commissioner Mitchell expressed concern with the change orders due to tight budgets and slim contingencies. Commissioner Mitchell questioned the four (4) change orders totaling \$81,000.

Mr. Christy referred to the Erwin Middle School change order and said there was still approximately \$35,000 left in contingency and "we are rapidly reaching completion on Erwin." Mr. Christy said students could possibly be moved just before Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Mitchell referred to the change orders for the new south and west elementary schools and asked if those budgets were "capable of sustaining those hits." Mr. Christy said he did not know the exact amount in the contingencies for west and south elementary schools.

Commissioner Tadlock felt Commissioner Mitchell had expressed legitimate concerns. Commissioner Tadlock asked how soon Mr. Christy could verify the information.

Commissioner Blount asked if the work had been completed? Finance Director Leslie Heidrick said she understood from a previous meeting, at Knollwood Elementary School, that the new cost for the architect is in this figure; therefore what was approved for the budget for the new south elementary school is included in this change order. Ms. Heidrick said she did not know about the \$2,000 for west. Ms. Heidrick confirmed to Commissioner Mitchell that budget did include the \$56,000 figure for the new south elementary and also confirmed that the two change orders for Erwin were fine.

Commissioner Belk asked if the surplus funds from Erwin had rolled over into funds that were to be made available for other projects. Mr. Russell said the contingencies were not considered but there were proposals "on the table" of which half of the contingencies would have been made available. Mr. Russell said this was not the ultimate plan that was accepted at Knollwood during the meeting.

Commissioner Mitchell moved for approval of all four (4)-change orders contingent that the new West Elementary School change order falls within budget. Commissioner Belk seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

BREAK

Chairman Andrews called for a break at 10:05 am and reconvened the meeting at 10:20 am.

RECALLED

Chairman Andrews called Jim Christy to come before the Board. Mr. Christy informed the Board that he checked with the Construction Control Management Company for the School Bond Project and that the schools are within the contingency funds with the west and south elementary school projects.

Chairman Andrews thanked Mr. Christy.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR Z-15-04 ZONING MAP AND TEXT AMENDMENTS TO EXTEND THE AIRPORT ZONE OVERLAY

Acting Rowan County Planning Manager, Ed Muire provided the Board with an overview of the request for Z-15-04 for Zoning Map and Text Amendments to extend the Airport Zone Overlay (AZO).

Mr. Muire reviewed the airport statistics by showing map and pointing out the 1000 ft expansion to the south of the airport (copies of this map appeared in agenda packets) and continued to explain further changes.

Mr. Muire said that the Planning Board recommended approval of both the map and text amendments. Mr. Muire said that all notices were mailed and publicized and detailed information was in the commission agenda packets.

Commissioner Blount mentioned that there were numerous citizens during the break that were reviewing and asking questions of staff. Commissioner Blount asked Mr. Muire if the citizens were satisfied. Mr. Muire responded that “not completely” and there were citizens along the Airport Road that still had concerns about such things as the transitional surface. Mr. Muire stated that the County Manager’s Office along with the staff involved with the airport would have a greater feel for that question and that the planning staff dealt more with the generalities and how they would be impacted now and in the future. Mr. Muire stated that surfaces around airport would remain the same and that the extension to the south and the north would also remain the same.

Commissioner Mitchell asked if this met the FFA regulations to which Mr. Muire responded yes according to title 14 with the aeronautics.

Commissioner Mitchell questioned non-conforming uses and Mr. Muire responded that there would be no impact. Mr. Muire explained that when the height gets to 350 ft, nothing in south rowan is a problem, including towers. Mr. Russell explained that Rowan County does have a height ordinance, which is required to protect the airport and that the county is required to amend the height in the ordinance to protect from future expansions.

Commissioner Mitchell asked if the Rowan County airport is the only one affected by this zoning change. Mr. Muire responded “yes”.

Chairman Andrews opened the public hearing to entertain citizen input regarding the proposed text amendments. The following citizens addressed the Board:

1. Dean Procter from United Beverages requested that the Board approve a definitive line and plan and added that he did support the proposal. Mr. Procter said that his company had recently approved a \$2-½ million expansion and that they had an understanding at that time of a definitive line. Mr. Procter said that they would have altered their plans if they had known six to nine months ago there was going to be a change in these plans presented today. Mr. Procter said that he understood that the existing building would be torn down and he does not feel that is the plan now. Mr. Procter said that after talking with staff he feels that he has that now. Mr. Procter said that it would be helpful to have an expected time frame.

With no further citizen input, Chairman Andrews closed the public hearing and opened the floor for discussion or to entertain a motion.

Chairman Andrews reviewed that some time back, he along with staff, went to Washington to get funding for a ROW (right-of-way) needed for this expansion and that this request is a continuation of this process. Chairman Andrews explained that this was followed by a meeting in Raleigh to meet with the state. Chairman Andrews explained that Rowan County was out of the immediate circle surrounding Charlotte and we would be drawn in. Raleigh felt that the capability of adjoining to the Charlotte circle created the biggest prime asset in our region. Chairman Andrews explained that it is an important process to be done in a way to best utilize Rowan County and our airport and expansion of growth and the economy. Chairman Andrews explained to Mr. Proctor that some of these things “we did not know at that time” and hopefully would not have as this process moves forward.

Commissioner Blount moved to approve the map and text amendments as presented by staff. Commissioner Tadlock seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ON FBO FOR THE ROWAN COUNTY AIRPORT

County Manager Tim Russell reviewed with the Board the recent events concerning the FBO (Fixed Base Operator), Salisbury Air Service and the planned take over of operations by Rowan County Government.

Mr. Russell provided the Board with a letter saying that each Commissioner was aware that Rowan County had been approached by the FBO to consider interest in assuming operations of the FBO at our airport as soon as an agreement could be entered into. Mr. Russell reminded the Board that there was a 10-year agreement made in 1996, which is set to expire or fall in to another process in June 2006. Mr. Russell explained that there was an additional 5-year period for extension included in the original agreement.

Mr. Russell reminded the Board that the owners had attempted to sell several months ago to a group in Florida. Mr. Russell said that the last two to three months had been frustrating with collections from the FBO and there had been extensions made in collecting these funds and letting them know that there were in violation. Mr. Russell said that three to four weeks ago staff learned that the FBO would not ask for an extension and wanted the county to assume the lease. Mr. Russell said that an agreement was given to them two weeks ago and that there was a stockholders meeting today to approve the proposal. Mr. Russell said that the County would assume the operations at the airport on October 11, 2004 contingent to purchase assets on site, fuel and parts accessory retail value and equipment. Mr. Russell said that last week staff began to perform an inventory on Thursday and were to complete the inventory on Friday. The FBO

was unable to provide that inventory and hopefully today the inventory will begin. Mr. Russell said that Rowan County would measure the fuel in the ground on October 11th and pay that amount to the fuel company. Mr. Russell added that staff has been in contact with the fuel company and they are aware of this. Mr. Russell stated the following for considerations before the Board:

1. To ask the Board of Commissioners for approval to have the County to take over operations from Salisbury Air upon verification. OR
2. To delay a decision and have a special meeting later in the week to finalize the plans or ASAP. Mr. Russell cautioned that rumors would make the stockholders apprehensive.

Mr. Russell said that the finance staff has been working on this project along with John Holshouser on the purchase agreement to release the assets. Mr. Russell said the County is interviewing staff and would not be running the operations with County staff, but interviewing the current airport staff, which would become County staff and work towards bringing the operations up to the 2000 level in sales.

Chairman Andrews confirmed that there were no numbers to look at this time. Mr. Russell said that the estimated fuel in the ground is approximately \$40,000, which is not owned by the FBO; but rather by the fuel company, Eastern Aviation. Mr. Russell did not have a good number for the parts, but said that staff would be doing an inventory and they would know an exact number later on.

Chairman Andrews asked if the County lease would be used as collateral. Mr. Russell said "yes" and that there are talks going on with Eastern Aviation.

In response to Chairman Andrews question on liability, Mr. Russell responded that Mr. Holshouser was drawing up a draft to address these concerns.

Commissioner Blount said that the process of this change would expose some liabilities and asked about extra insurance. Mr. Russell responded that "yes" the county had submitted an application and there would be a binder issued with Board of Commissioner approval on October 11th.

Commissioner Blount questioned the existing staff, to which Mr. Russell responded that plans were to interview tomorrow and make a decision by Wednesday. Mr. Russell said that the current airport staff had received applications for employment.

Commissioner Blount questioned the financial gain at the airport. Mr. Russell said that the value at the county airport is not with the gallons of gas that are sold, but rather the tax value of aircraft located at the airport. Mr. Russell stated that the goal is to have a professional qualified FBO and attract new aircraft as an investment. Mr. Russell reviewed that the original agreement allowed five years to attract new aircraft and George Johnson achieved this part of the

agreement. Mr. Russell explained that Mr. Johnson sold this part of the agreement several years ago with Board approval and there has been no attempt to attract new aircraft since that time. Mr. Russell said that the goal is to show revenues and new planes. Mr. Russell said that when the airplanes are based here in Rowan County they pay taxes here and once there is a professional staff in place, they will attract some businesses to relocate back to Rowan County, which will add to our tax base.

Commissioner Blount said that this was not the first time Rowan County had investigated taking over the airport to which Mr. Russell responded that was correct.

Commissioner Tadlock questioned if there were other counties that ran their own airports to which Mr. Russell responded "Concord and Stanley County".

Mr. Russell confirmed that the FBO came to Rowan County with the offer and Rowan County did not seek this offer from the FBO and that if the FBO had met the agreements in the contract, the FBO would be entitled to a five-year extension, therefore making it seven years left on the contract. Mr. Russell exclaimed that was a challenge for Rowan County and needed to take action quickly.

Chairman Andrews questioned the proposed annexation by the City of Salisbury and the taxation concerns. Mr. Russell responded that Rowan County taking over as the FBO does put Rowan County in a precarious situation, but that it would not be any different than if Rowan County were a private venture. Mr. Russell said that double taxation makes this a challenge.

Commissioner Tadlock stated that this was the same situation in Concord, but Mr. Russell stated that Concord has lower taxes.

Commissioner Blount said that some form would be rebated back for EDC purposes and acknowledged that the land around the airport could be used for private purposes. Chairman Andrews said that this was a critical part of our future and that future Boards would need to make sure that this works.

Commissioner Blount made a motion to approve the concept with a maximum number allowed and then to allow staff to proceed.

In response to a query, Mr. Russell explained that staff has worked out a plan with Eastern Aviation, in case fuel is needed prior to the turnover. Mr. Russell explained that the fuel will be measured on Monday, October 11th for the value of the fuel at that time and then Rowan County would pay Eastern Aviation. Mr. Russell explained that the figure for the parts would not increase but rather decrease significantly.

Commissioner Tadlock questioned the “collateral” issue. Mr. Russell said this was a legal question and that the Eastern Aviation had claims to Salisbury Air Service and that the lease could not be used as collateral.

Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chairman Andrews open the floor to receive public comments from those in attendance.

Since no one came before the Board, Chairman Andrews closed the public hearing.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairman Andrews adjourned the meeting at 10:55 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rita K. Foil, CMC
Clerk to the Board