

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
December 20, 2004 – 7:00 PM
COMMISSIONER’S MEETING ROOM, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

Present: Frank Tadlock, Chairman
Arnold Chamberlain, Vice-Chairman
Steve Blount, Member
Chad Mitchell, Member
Jim Sides, Member

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

Chairman Tadlock called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Commissioner Chamberlain provided the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Chairman Tadlock asked the Board if there were any additions to the agenda.

Commissioner Blount requested to distribute an informational handout at a time deemed appropriate by the Chairman. By consensus, Chairman Tadlock granted the request as Agenda Item 2B.

Chairman Tadlock then asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Commissioner Blount said he understood the Board no longer needed to discuss an Economic Development issue in Closed Session.

Commissioner Blount moved for approval of the agenda as presented, with the removal of the Closed Session and the addition of item 2B. Commissioner Chamberlain seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Chamberlain questioned Item C of the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Chamberlain referred to the Budget Amendment for the \$5,000

received from the Robertson Foundation for the Rowan County Sustainable Community Development Commission (SCDC). Commissioner Chamberlain asked why the check was made out to the County when the funds are handled through the Catawba College Center for the Environment. Mr. Russell explained that the Commissioners appointed the SCDC and the grant application was completed through the County. Mr. Russell said the Robertson Foundation Director Dave Setzer had indicated that the foundation could not directly pay the SCDC and therefore the funds were handled through Rowan County.

Finance Director Leslie Heidrick clarified that the check was written to the County because the SCDC did not have a nonprofit status.

Mr. Russell said the County was a “pass through” but there was no liability to the County.

Commissioner Chamberlain referred to the grant application and noted the total budget for the Clean Air Initiative was \$239,600. Commissioner Chamberlain asked if this was a proposed budget or if the SCDC actually had this amount of money. Mr. Russell said he understood the amount was the proposed budget. Mr. Russell said the Commissioners had provided \$10,000 for the project.

Commissioner Chamberlain expressed concern with several issues in the grant application form. Commissioner Chamberlain questioned whom the SCDC is accountable to? Mr. Russell responded that he would review prior minutes and report back to the Board regarding Commissioner Chamberlain’s questions.

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

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Approval of the 12/6/2004 Minutes
- B. Approval to set a public hearing for Scattered Site Housing Grant
- C. Budget Amendments

APPROVAL OF FINANCING PROPOSAL FOR THE FY 2005 VEHICLES:

Finance Director Leslie Heidrick explained that the Finance Department had recently request and received installment financing proposals for the purchase of two (2) ambulances for the Rowan County EMS Department and sixteen (16) vehicles for the Rowan County Sheriff’s Department. Ms. Heidrick explained that the amount to be financed is \$505,000 for a term of three (3) years. Ms. Heidrick stated that seven (7) bids were received and a summary was enclosed in the Commissioner’s packets for review.

Ms. Heidrick recommended approval of the low bid received from RBC Centura, with an interest rate of 2.61% and a total cost of \$530,995, excluding legal fees.

In addition Ms. Heidrick requested the associated Resolution, Declaration and Budget Amendment be approved.

In response to a query from Commissioner Sides, Ms. Heidrick said the funds were allocated in the budget process.

Commissioner Sides referred to a letter the Commissioners had received from the Town of East Spencer. The letter requested an ambulance from the County. Commissioner Sides asked who served the Town of East Spencer regarding Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Mr. Russell responded that the Mayor of East Spencer was requesting that the County transfer a surplus unit to East Spencer to be used as a First Responder unit. Mr. Russell explained that the units in the budget come to the Board in a maintenance schedule and each vehicle is identified by a level of usage for replacement. Mr. Russell said most of the vehicles are purchased through state contract.

Mr. Russell said the Board had adopted a policy “many years ago” after receiving hundreds of requests from Volunteer Fire Departments (VFD) for the surplus ambulances. Mr. Russell said the policy allows the County to transfer the ambulances to the VFD at one-half of the fair market value.

Mr. Russell explained that East Spencer had requested an ambulance several months ago “but they wanted it free.” Mr. Russell said if the county takes two (2) ambulances “off line,” the Town of East Spencer would have the option to purchase.

Commissioner Sides asked if Rowan County EMS serves East Spencer. Mr. Russell said two (2) units from Old Concord Road serves the Town. Mr. Russell said East Spencer would be given the opportunity to purchase a surplus unit at one-half of the fair market value.

Commissioner Chamberlain made a motion to accept the low bid recommendation and request as presented. Commissioner Mitchell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Mitchell moved to approve the Resolution, Declaration and Budget Amendment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Blount and approved unanimously.

ADDITION:

Commissioner Blount referred to the Commissioners upcoming Board Retreat and distributed information concerning the Cabarrus County Industrial Development Grant Program. Commissioner Blount said the plan “spells out” the details for Economic Development Commission (EDC) incentives. Commissioner Blount said the County had been asked by the EDC several times to consider

adopting a formal plan as opposed to consideration on a case-by-case basis. Commissioner Blount said the Board could discuss the information at its retreat.

Commissioner Blount was asked if the information was current, to which he replied "yes".

Chairman Tadlock asked when the plan was implemented. Commissioner Blount said the original plan had been in place approximately ten (10) years.

APPROVAL OF SUPPORT FOR MEDICAID COST REFORM:

Mr. Russell explained that the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners number one legislative goal was to phase out county participation in the costs of Medicaid. Mr. Russell said the county currently pays 5 ½ - 6% of the total share.

Mr. Russell said the bill would phase out all of the local cost of Medicaid by the year 2009.

Commissioners were given copies of the bills in their packets. The bills were introduced during the 2004 State Legislative sessions, which were S1271 and H1643, and would phase out the 15 percent county share of Medicaid within five years and provide immediate assistance to Tier One counties. Rowan County is a Tier Four county. However the General Assembly failed to provide relief to counties saddled with over \$400 million in Medicaid responsibilities.

Commissioners Chamberlain and Sides talked about the issue being discussed the previous week during their attendance at the Institute of Government for the New Commissioner's School.

Mr. Russell pointed out that there are counties in the eastern portion of the state where approximately 50% of their budgets go towards Medicaid. Mr. Russell said relief is needed for the poorer counties.

Mr. Russell asked if the Board wished to at least adopt the concept concerning the Medicaid issue.

Commissioner Blount made a motion to support the proposed Medicaid Cost Reform and to send letters to our Representatives to urge their support of these bills. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

DESIGNATION OF VOTING DELEGATE FOR THE LEGISLATIVE GOALS CONFERENCE:

Chairman Tadlock referred to a memo regarding the Legislative Goals Conference scheduled for January 13-14, 2005. Chairman Tadlock said each

Board of County Commissioners is requested to designate a Commissioner or official as a voting delegate for the upcoming Legislative Goals Conference.

Mr. Russell explained that the information distributed to the Commissioners was a first draft of what would be considered as the goals at the conference. Mr. Russell said the Board could review the information before the next meeting in order to provide guidance to the Board's chosen Voting Delegate. Mr. Russell said all of the goals would be voted upon at the conference.

Commissioner Chamberlain said he would defer but added that he was available to attend the conference if other Commissioners could not. Commissioner Chamberlain said if he were selected to attend, he would also like someone to attend with him.

Commissioner Blount made a motion to appoint Arnold Chamberlain as the Voting Delegate for the Legislative Conference. Mr. Russell volunteered to attend along with Commissioner Chamberlain. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

Rowan County Board of Public Health

Commissioner Chad Mitchell was appointed to fill the commissioner slot on the board on a motion by Commissioner Blount, which passed unanimously.

Department of Social Services Board

Commissioner Jim Sides was appointed to fill the commissioner slot on this board on a motion by Commissioner Blount, which passed unanimously.

Piedmont Behavioral Health Care Board

In response to a query from Commissioner Blount regarding the end of Commissioner Mitchell's term on this board, Commissioner Mitchell said he wished to resign from the Piedmont Behavioral Health Care Board.

Commissioner Arnold Chamberlain was appointed to replace Commissioner Chad Mitchell on this board on a motion by Commissioner Blount, which passed unanimously.

Rowan County Tourism Development Authority

Commissioner Chad Mitchell was appointed to serve in the commissioner's slot on this authority on a motion by Commissioner Blount, which was passed unanimously.

Alcohol Beverage Control Board

Commissioner Frank Tadlock has resigned from this board.

Commissioner Blount made a motion to appoint Gus Andrews to fill this vacancy, which passed on a 4/1 Vote. Commissioner Sides voted against the motion and Commissioner Chamberlain abstained.

Board and Liaison Appointments

A listing of the Commissioner's board and liaison appointments was received and reviewed by the Board. Chairman Tadlock expressed appreciation to Commissioner Chamberlain for his assistance with the appointments and to all Commissioners for their willingness to serve.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chairman Tadlock opened the public comment period.

There being no one present who wished to address the Board, Chairman Tadlock closed the public comment period.

Chairman Tadlock recognized Rick Hudson in the audience who was recently appointed to the Planning Board.

CLOSED SESSION:

Chairman Tadlock noted the Board had "deleted" this Closed Session from the agenda.

ADJOURNED

There being no further business, Chairman Tadlock asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm.

At 7:30 pm Commissioner Chamberlain made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mitchell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rita K. Foil, CMC
Clerk to the Board