

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
March 30, 2004 – 1:00 PM
J. NEWTON COHEN, SR. ROOM, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

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

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

Chairman Andrews convened the meeting at 1:00 pm. Commissioner Tadlock provided the Invocation and Commissioner Belk led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDITIONS: REQUEST FROM THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Chairman Andrews stated there was a request for consideration of approval for two grants from the Rowan County Sheriff's Department.

Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program

Lt. John Sifford of the Rowan County Sheriff's Department reviewed the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program in the agenda.

Commissioner Belk questioned how many terminals were needed. Lt. Sifford answered that this process would only "catch us up" in technology.

Commissioner Blount asked if these terminals would have to be replaced. Lt. Sifford stated there would not be any replacements.

Commissioner Tadlock moved to approve the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program as requested. Commissioner Belk seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

N.C. Governor's Highway Safety Program

John Sifford also reviewed the request of the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program found in the agenda. Lt. Sifford stated the first year would require no match as far as personnel. The second, third and fourth year would gradually increase by 50%, 75% and 100%. Lt. Sifford stated this should carry on as a four-year period designed for two new officers, equipment and salary.

Commissioner Belk questioned if the officers would be used for a specific program. Lt. Sifford answered by saying the Sheriff's Department would be, "Using them towards preventing alcohol abuse and teen driving."

Commissioner Blount questioned if this grant would include the total cost of everything. Lt. Sifford stated the first year would cover 100% of personnel and 75% of equipment. Lt. Sifford also stated the total cost of equipment including car would be around \$90,000. Commissioner Blount mentioned the County would have to come up with \$25,000 the first year. Lt. Sifford stated the terminals would be placed in the vehicles.

Commissioner Blount made a motion to approve authorizing the Rowan County Sheriff's Department to apply for the grant, but reserving the acceptance until discussing budget issues. Commissioner Belk seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

UPDATE ON SCHOOL BOND PROJECT

David Aycoth presented an update on the School Bond Project and acknowledged that this was not a request for more money. Mr. Aycoth stated a public hearing was held on two issues. The first issue was delays, postponements and cut backs regarding the third elementary school in Eastern Rowan County. The second issue was about Cleveland Elementary and the construction and placement of modular facilities. Mr. Aycoth stated there were seven speakers at the hearing with positive feedback on the first issue. Mr. Aycoth also mentioned there were two speakers who wanted to consider doing anything besides stopping the Eastern Elementary School project.

Jim Christy discussed the first item on the bid of Salisbury High School.

Bill Burgin reviewed the handout on the Salisbury High School Alternates. Mr. Burgin recommended the remaining \$527,268 be spent on window replacements, Schlage key system, YAMAS controls, PVC roof and the interior gym work. Bill Burgin asked for some credit items such as the auditorium seating, music building windows and the acoustical panels for the gym. If these items were totaled, the amount would be under budget by \$8,768.

Ed Watson of Construction Control mentioned the rising cost of steel and referred to a few articles. Mr. Watson suggested postponing the third elementary school and using it for West Elementary, Southeast Elementary and the new high school. Mr. Watson reviewed the handout on West Elementary and stated the suggestion of the School Board to fund the project at 7 million dollars, make similar changes for the next elementary school and to take 4.7 million out of 8.8 million dollars of East Elementary to fund the other three schools. Mr. Watson mentioned this would save money for Isenberg, Erwin and Cleveland.

Commissioner Belk questioned the multi-purpose facility at Cleveland. Jim Christy stated, if they do classrooms, they would not do a multi-purpose building due to space. Mr. Christy mentioned this would save close to \$200,000.

Commissioner Belk questioned the life cycle of the modulares. Mr. Watson stated the insulated components would last about 40-50 years, while the modulares would last 20-25 years.

Chairman Andrews mentioned, "We need to stay within focus of what the bond was promised." Chairman Andrews also mentioned Salisbury High School having a low capacity. Chairman Andrews questioned, "Are we going to fill Salisbury High School to its full capacity?"

Jim Christy stated the School Board had approved a new redistricting plan that is going to give them room to grow in capacity.

Chairman Andrews called for a ten-minute break at 1:50 pm.

Chairman Andrews reconvened the meeting at 2:00 pm.

Chairman Andrews questioned the prototype of the elementary school and stated this bid would be a couple million dollars over budget. Chairman Andrews questioned: '1) Did we feel it would meet budget? 2) Did we pick too expensive a prototype? 3) Can it still be built for \$5.5 million dollars"?

Ed Watson mentioned the least expensive prototype was selected and this was the first time bids were not within budget due to the high prices of steel.

K.C. Underwood, architect for Shuller Ferris Lindstrom & Associates, stated that a bid history, as late as two weeks before the bid, had been received.

Mr. Watson reviewed several options to save money, which included:

1. Delay bids.
2. Take costs out (even sq. footage).
3. Not build the East Elementary School but expand the West and South Elementary Schools.
4. Not build additions to Salisbury, North and West High Schools.

5. Not make the renovations for Salisbury, North and West High Schools.
6. Making no renovations at schools. (Although some renovations need to be done for life safety standpoint.)

Commissioner Tadlock questioned the capacity for an elementary school. Jim Christy mentioned it was 697 students.

Commissioner Blount stated we needed to make the Salisbury High School decision. He also questioned if the steel package was locked in for a specific time period. Mr. Watson acknowledged there was a contract issued for the steel package.

Mr. Christy stated that a decision could be made at the next Board of Commissioner's meeting about Salisbury High School because the prices were good for 20 days. Mr. Christy stated they still need three elementary schools for 2009.

Commissioner Blount mentioned the savings and costs for the schools and added that he felt like the Board was rushing to make a decision.

Commissioner Tadlock made a motion to reconvene the meeting at 7:30 pm for them to bring the correct bid amount. Commissioner Belk seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Andrews recessed the meeting at 2:30 pm.

Chairman Andrews reconvened the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Jim Christy informed the Board that the high school bid came in 6.4 million dollars over budget, which does not include the alternates and stated the need to move forward with Cleveland Elementary project, lock in the West Elementary project and delay East Elementary.

Ed Watson stated, "He has never seen a market like this." Mr. Watson recommended to hold the project off and re-bid it later, and to look at a new set of alternates.

K.C. Underwood stated in Harnett County there was a school bid of \$89 per sq. ft. with extras included. Mr. Underwood mentioned the high school bid was estimated at \$145 per sq. ft with extras not included.

Mr. Watson stated the scope had not changed since the last discussion. Mr. Watson believes this project should be put on hold until the market corrects itself.

Commissioner Belk questioned if it would be wise to put everything on hold.

Mr. Watson indicated there needed to be an elementary school considered in the West Rowan district and suggested looking back at all high school pictures dealing with their capacities before committing to anything else.

Commissioner Blount reviewed the history of the bids.

David Aycoth mentioned the tight deadline and declared a decision needed to be made.

Commissioner Belk indicated she needed a priority list of the schools.

Commissioner Blount reviewed the priority list by referencing a document provided by the schools in July of 2002.

Commissioner Tadlock stated he wanted the Board to stay focused and increase the capacity at Salisbury High School.

The Board discussed the additional capacity of Salisbury High School.

Martha West, School Board member, stated the School Board is committed to fill any additional seats.

Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve the Cleveland Elementary expansion. Commissioner Tadlock seconded and the Board went into discussion about the expansion.

The motion failed with a 1-4 vote with Commissioner Tadlock voting for the Cleveland Elementary expansion.

Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve West Elementary School. Commissioner Tadlock seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Blount made a motion allowing the proceeding of Salisbury High School addition. Commissioner Tadlock seconded.

Jim Christy stated that he could give update on April 5th.

Commissioner Blount clarified his motion to accept the base bid price of \$527,268 and the suggested deducts alternates. Commissioner Blount also indicated not to approve the add alternates which would be the window replacements and interior gym work.

Commissioner Tadlock suggested alternates be included.

Commissioner Mitchell asked the School Board to keep the Salisbury High School bid in tacked.

Commissioner Belk mentioned she would rather wait for more feedback about the bids.

Commissioner Blount's motion of approving Salisbury High Schools alternates failed with Commissioner's Belk, Mitchell, Tadlock and Chairman Andrews voting against the motion.

The Board decided to recess the meeting until April 14th.

With no further business to come before the meeting body, Chairman Andrews recessed the meeting at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rita K. Foil, CMC
Clerk to the Board