

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
April 13, 2004 – 4:00 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 reconvened the meeting at 4:00 pm from the April 5, 2004 meeting.

UPDATE ON SCHOOL BOND PROJECT

David Aycoth addressed the Board of Commissioners with facts and statistics of the Rowan/ Salisbury School System and mentioned that the Isenberg and Erwin projects came under bid and were proceeding with their schedules. Mr. Aycoth stated a decision needed to be made regarding Salisbury High School to secure bids.

David Aycoth reviewed the unanimously approved motion from the School Board of Education, which included:

- Delay East Elementary School project and continue in 2008.
- Request to Purchase land for the East Elementary School project and develop utilities.
- Designate Bond funds to East Elementary School project.
- Proceed with grading the new high school.
- Re-bid the new high school.
- Proceed with renovations for Salisbury High School, West Rowan High School and North Rowan High School with openings set for August 2006.

David Aycoth voiced concern about a recent Salisbury Post editorial titled “School Bid Mystery Waiting for Answers”. Mr. Aycoth stated the article was from “taint public opinion”.

David Aycoth referred to the handout “Current High School Capacity-Projections”.

Ed Watson of Construction Control mentioned the dramatic change in the market and that the bid holdings were lasting from 0-2 weeks. Mr. Watson explained that the additional new square footage in the new high school was due to the new changes of classroom sizes. Mr. Watson also discussed the West Rowan High School and North Rowan High School handouts and proposed bidding the new site package as soon as they could put it together. Mr. Watson also indicated changing the East Elementary School until the fall of 2008. Mr. Watson recommended all the schools opening at the same time.

Commissioner Blount asked Mr. Watson for the schedule to bid each project. Ed Watson indicated the following:

- West Rowan High School, North Rowan High School and the new high school should bid no later than Thanksgiving 2004.
- New South Elementary School bid in February 2005.
- New East Elementary School bid in March 2007.
- Cleveland Elementary School bid in early May 2005.
- Woodleaf Elementary School bid in July 2004.

Mr. Christy mentioned several funds that included:

- Contingency fund
- Interest on Bonds- \$500,000
- Sales Tax Refund- \$1.5 million
- State Bond Fund- \$498,000
- Savings from water and sewer- \$240,000
- Land Acquisition- \$300,000
- Purchase site on E. Ritchie Road- \$375,000

Mr. Christy stated these funds could give around \$4.1 million to allocate towards the East Elementary School.

Commissioner Belk mentioned this plan still presented a shortage to build the East Elementary School. Mr. Christy stated it would be \$5.5 million short for 2008/2009.

Chairman Andrews commended County Manager Tim Russell for doing a tremendous job in putting together a proposed package and invited Mr. Russell to present this package.

County Manager Tim Russell reviewed the narrative on proposed package. Mr. Russell discussed Exhibit A, which was previously forwarded from Jim Christy. Mr. Russell also discussed Exhibit C, which introduces the new elementary school in four years. Mr.

Russell indicated the net deficit would be \$9,595,000. Mr. Russell stated this would run the new elementary school short of \$6,557,000.

Tim Russell thoroughly discussed Exhibit B, Manager's Proposal, included the following:

- New East Elementary would run \$10,620,859 if delayed until 2008 due to inflation.
- New South Elementary, New West Elementary, Cleveland Elementary, Isenberg Elementary, Woodleaf Elementary, Erwin Middle and West Rowan High School staying the same amount.
- Increasing New Southeast High School by 3.9 million to 28.5 million for construction.
- North High School proceeding with the budget approved initially at \$4,699,758.
- Accepting base bid and proceeding with Salisbury High School and accepting alternates that were deducts.
- Removing Technology from the budget of 1.5 million.

Tim Russell asked Construction Control if they could speed up the new elementary school saving inflation dollars.

Commissioner Belk stated she wanted to speed up the East Elementary School project to save \$1.5 million for technology and indicated her commitment to the citizens.

Commissioner Tadlock also affirmed his commitment to the citizens of Rowan County.

Commissioner Blount declared that something needed to be approved during the called session.

Jim Christy mentioned he would like to discuss information with the school's financial officer.

Chairman Andrews stated \$28.5 million was the amount for the new high school.

Commissioner Mitchell questioned the proposed budget and alternates.

Jim Christy stated the School Board would like to spend money as they see fit. Mr. Christy mentioned they could use the money from fund balance, school capital fund, etc. if the project over seeded.

Commissioner Belk affirmed she did not have a problem with Mr. Christy's statement.

Chairman Andrews mentioned any scope changes needed to be discussed.

Dr. Wiley Doby, Superintendent of Rowan/Salisbury Schools, mentioned the School Board needed flexibility. Commissioner Belk stated she would like to see all changes to come back to the Board of Commissioners to assure changes.

Chairman Andrews declared the Board needed to work through the process of revaluation and priorities.

Commissioner Belk mentioned she would like to modify East Elementary and not wait.

Commissioner Tadlock stated he would like to see the savings of the School Board go toward technology. County Manager Tim Russell indicated it was up to the Board of Commissioners to make decision about technology.

Commissioner Belk made a motion to adopt the Manager's Proposal, Exhibit B. Commissioner Tadlock seconded.

Commissioner Blount asked to add Salisbury High School with deduct alternates of \$3,348,758 to the motion.

Chairman Andrews clarified the motion to accept Manager's proposal.

Commissioner Belk stated we are going to build every project that was committed to the citizens.

Jim Christy asked for clarification on the amount for Salisbury High School.

Mr. Russell reviewed the handout on Salisbury High School and explained the amount was derived by taking the base bid, which would result in a savings of \$527,268. Mr. Russell also deducted potential credit items that totaled \$589,000.

The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the meeting body, Chairman Andrews adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rita K. Foil, CMC
Clerk to the Board