

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
October 3, 2005 – 7:00 PM  
J. NEWTON COHEN, SR. ROOM, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

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

Interim County Manager William Cowan, Assistant Clerk to the Board Carolyn Athey, County Attorney Jay Dees and Finance Director Leslie Heidrick were present.

Chairman Chamberlain called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Chairman Chamberlain provided the Invocation and Commissioner Tadlock led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADDITIONS/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

- Commissioner Blount requested to add an Economic Development issue to Closed Session.
  
- Commissioner Sides added a discussion regarding the Department of Social Services (DSS) annual Christmas party for foster children in Rowan County.

Commissioner Sides moved, Commissioner Blount seconded and the vote to approve the additions to the agenda passed unanimously.

Chairman Chamberlain added the DSS discussion as agenda item 8a.

Commissioner Tadlock moved, Commissioner Sides seconded and the vote to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

### **CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Chamberlain said the Board was set to schedule a quasi-judicial hearing for October 13, 2005 for a request from Davidson County Broadcasting, Inc. Chairman Chamberlain referred to letters received from Jack Edwards and Gig Hilton and he asked the Board to review the letters and advise him if they wished to delay the issue.

Commissioner Blount said the request to delay the hearing was based on a desire by Mr. Edwards to have Mr. Joseph in attendance. Commissioner Blount said the fact that hearing would probably roll over to the Board's meeting on Monday would allow Mr. Joseph the opportunity to provide testimony.

Commissioner Sides said he had no problem with allowing the testimony to continue on Monday.

Chairman Chamberlain pointed out that if the Board went through hours of testimony on the 13<sup>th</sup> and reconvened on a different date, it might prevent cross-examination.

Ed Muire of the Rowan County Planning Department said a pre-hearing meeting was held on Friday to discuss the rules of procedure. Mr. Muire said an agreement was reached to conduct the hearing in one evening with a specified time limit. Mr. Muire said Mr. Allen who represents Davidson County Broadcasting, Inc. had indicated that if the hearing was going to be delayed, to please do so in its entirety as his witnesses were coming from different parts of the country.

Chairman Chamberlain moved to pull the quasi-judicial hearing from the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Blount seconded the motion.

Carlyle Sherrill questioned the possibility of holding the hearing in one evening. Mr. Sherrill said there were witnesses that had already lined up airline tickets for the 13<sup>th</sup> and he requested that the Board proceed with the hearing and carry it over to Monday.

Gig Hilton, the applicant, said he thought that the issue was set 4 weeks ago. Mr. Hilton continued by saying that he had lined up consultants for the 13<sup>th</sup> and that he felt it would be detrimental to his case if his consultant could not be present to cross-examine.

Commissioner Blount didn't feel the Board could guarantee that the hearing would be finished in one night and he expressed concern with excluding anyone that might wish to testify.

Commissioner Sides suggested continuing the hearing on Friday as opposed to Monday and Commissioner Tadlock concurred.

Commissioner Tadlock moved, Commissioner Sides seconded and the vote to continue the hearing on Friday, October 14, 2005 at 1:00 pm, if necessary, passed unanimously.

Commissioner Tadlock moved, Commissioner Mitchell seconded and the vote to approve the Consent Agenda passed unanimously. The Consent Agenda consisted of the following items:

- A. Approval of September 13, 2005 minutes
- B. Approval of September 19, 2005 minutes
- C. Approval of NC DOT Request to Add Extension to Clairmont Road to the State Secondary Road System for Maintenance
- D. Schedule Quasi-Judicial Hearing for October 13, 2005 for Request from Davidson County Broadcasting, Inc.
- E. Schedule Quasi-Judicial Hearing for PCUR-02-05 for October 17, 2005
- F. Schedule Quasi-Judicial Hearing for October 17, 2005 for PCUR 03-05

#### **PUBLIC HEARING FOR EXTENSION OF CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE AGREEMENT BETWEEN COUNTY AND ADELPHIA CABLE**

Jim Sides said his first impression had been to request to delay a decision regarding the extension of the cable television franchise. Commissioner Sides said he had received assurance from Dave Harris of Piedmont Triad Council of Governments, that Time Warner Cable would begin to pay a 5% franchise fee after the first of the year, compared to the current franchise fee of 3% from Adelphia Cable.

Chairman Chamberlain opened the public hearing to entertain citizen input and with no citizens wishing to address the Board, Chairman Chamberlain closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Sides moved to approve the Resolution and to transfer the franchise agreement from Adelphia Cable to Time Warner through 2007, during which time Rowan County would renegotiate the contract. Commissioner Blount seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING FOR CUP 07-05**

Chairman Chamberlain read the Chairman's Speech (Exhibit A) and declared the public hearing for CUP 07-05 to be in session. Chairman Chamberlain said the hearing would focus on an application submitted by Mark Webb for property located along the 200 block of Stoney Knob Lane in the Franklin Township. The application is for a conditional use permit to allow a family subdivision in a CBI zoning district on a 5.92-acre parcel referenced as Tax Parcel 316-019.

The Assistant Clerk swore in those wishing to provide testimony in the case. John Hanes of the Rowan County Planning Department, 402 N. Main Street, Salisbury, presented the Staff Report (Exhibit B). Mr. Hanes said Mark Webb was requesting a conditional use permit to allow a family subdivision in a CBI district. Mr. Hanes said Mr. Webb wished to add a singlewide mobile home, which is allowed in a family subdivision. Mr. Hanes said the existing parcel is 5.92 acres and is located on Stoney Knob Lane.

Mr. Hanes reviewed the Required Findings in the Staff Report (Exhibit B) as follows:

- There is adequate means of transportation via a 20' right of way, Stoney Knob Lane, located off Highway 70.
- Any lot that would be created must be 20,000 square feet or greater.
- Any residential structure should add value to the property and the newly created lot will add property value.

Mr. Hanes stated that the Evaluation Criteria, a through f, in the Staff Report (Exhibit B) meet the requirements of the ordinance.

Mr. Hanes said Staff recommends approval.

Chairman Chamberlain asked if Staff approval included Planning Board approval? Mr. Hanes responded that the application did not go through the Planning Board.

Chairman Chamberlain asked how the County would know if the applicant decided to move in the future and rent out the mobile home? Mr. Hanes said for any family subdivision, whomever the tract goes to is whom the permits are issued to.

Chairman Chamberlain clarified his question and asked, "Later on down the road if he moves out, we won't know who is in there?" Mr. Hanes (and Ed Muire, Rowan Planning Manager) shook their heads no.

The Assistant Clerk swore in one (1) additional citizen who wished to address the Board.

Jerry Schenk from Mooresville said he wanted to "mention that the Webb family is a fabulous family and they will be nice neighbors because they're next to my property; and I'm also saying that you should allow them the permit. However, we got a problem" and "if they came to you and asked for a mobile home park permit, you'd say no." Mr. Schenk said, "The problem that we have is that down the road if they want to keep dividing and subdividing then there is nothing to say that they can't and what we will wind up with is a mobile home park." Mr. Schenk said, "If you do give them the permit, do it with reservations so that it will be a singular type thing."

Chairman Chamberlain realized that he had not officially opened the public hearing and he said the Board would accept the comments that had been made in retrospect.

With no additional citizens wishing to address the Board, Chairman Chamberlain closed the public hearing.

Mr. Hanes verified to Commissioner Blount that the conditional use permit granted a one-lot subdivision and allowed one structure on the lot.

Commissioner Mitchell moved based on the Required Findings 1 through 3 (Exhibit B) and the Evaluated Criteria a through f (Exhibit B), approval of the conditional use permit. Commissioner Blount seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **PUBLIC HEARING FOR UNANIMOUS ROAD NAME PETITION FOR TOP GEAR LANE**

Fredda Greer of the Rowan County Planning Department presented the information regarding the unanimous road name petition for Top Gear Lane. Ms. Greer said the road runs south off of the 1100 block of Shaver Road and had been identified by ASI as meeting the criteria for naming. Ms. Greer reported that Top Gear Lane was an acceptable name and that Staff recommended approval.

Chairman Chamberlain opened the public hearing to entertain citizen input regarding the proposed road name. With no citizens wishing to address the Board, Chairman Chamberlain closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Blount moved, Commissioner Mitchell seconded and the vote to approve the road name as submitted by Staff carried unanimously.

### **CLARIFICATION ON CONDITION FOR APPROVAL FOR CUP-05-05**

Shane Stewart of the Rowan County Planning Department said the applicant for CUP 05-05 had requested clarification on one condition imposed by the Board.

The applicant, Tim Leslie, came forward and said the issue was with the condition that no existing vegetation could be removed along tract #5. Mr. Leslie said there were considerable trash piles covered with an overgrowth of briars, honeysuckles, etc. Mr. Leslie asked to be allowed to clean up the overgrowth.

Commissioner Blount said he had requested the condition for the purpose of blocking the view of the campground from the adjoining single-family residences. Commissioner Blount asked Staff to go to the site and ensure that removal of the briars/trash piles would not open up the view of the campground. Commissioner Blount asked Mr. Stewart if he was comfortable with this direction?

Mr. Stewart responded that Staff would feel more comfortable with direction from the Board as there could also be small trees of a certain caliper that might be removed.

Commissioner Sides said he had been to the site and that he had spoke to Mr. Leslie about the issue. Commissioner Sides pointed out that if Mr. Leslie had not come before the Board with the application, he could have cleared the area without asking for permission. Commissioner Sides said Mr. Leslie would not clear the trees but would only clear the undergrowth. Commissioner Sides felt Mr. Leslie should be allowed to remove the undergrowth. Commissioner Sides said Mr. Leslie would not clear any further back than the driveway itself.

In response to a query from Chairman Chamberlain, Mr. Leslie said one of the neighbors had complained about the snakes and had approached Mr. Leslie about cleaning up the trash piles and vegetation. Mr. Leslie said he would like to clean up the area, replant the grass and keep the area mowed.

Chairman Chamberlain said the conditions had been set and that vegetation could not be cut without Board approval.

Commissioner Sides moved to approve removal of the briars, honeysuckles and clean up of trash; no trees 3" or larger to be cut and removed, and cutting be allowed back only as far back as the driveway entrance into the park. Commissioner Tadlock seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Chamberlain instructed Mr. Leslie to meet with Mr. Stewart and make sure there is an understanding of what is approved. Commissioner Sides said he would be glad to also participate.

### **ALTERATION & REPAIRS OF ROWAN COUNTY RECYCLING CENTER**

Interim County Manager William Cowan distributed 2 budget amendments with updates regarding options for the alteration and repairs of the recycling center.

Paul Canup and Lori Swaim of Rowan County Environmental Services were present to provide the background information.

Mr. Canup used a power point presentation as he discussed the services of the recycling center and the needed renovations for the building.

Mr. Canup reviewed the summary of bids received and requested that the Board approve the low bid from Summit Developers in the amount of \$228,000.

Mr. Cowan pointed out that the budget amendment adds a \$10,000 contingency for any code-related change orders that might come up during construction.

Chairman Chamberlain asked whom the County purchased the property from and Mr. Canup said A.L. Jarrell had originally built the building, however someone else had bought it and decided to sell it.

Commissioner Sides asked where the additional \$72,000 for Option B would come from and Mr. Cowan said the funds would come from the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund. Mr. Cowan said the actual amount that would be appropriated was \$162,402 but part of the amount is the proceeds from the sale of the former building. Mr. Cowan said the balance of \$82,492 is enough to cover the difference plus the \$10,000 contingency.

Commissioner Sides moved, Commissioner Tadlock seconded and the vote to accept Option B carried unanimously.

### **UPDATE ON SPEEDWAY BUSINESS PARK**

County Attorney Jay Dees explained that in June the Board had voted to sell lot #6 in Speedway Business Park to Les Csanyi for \$70,000. Mr. Dees provided the Board with copies of a written contract. Mr. Dees brought it to the Board's attention Mr. Csanyi had wanted the company to own the building but at the time the company wasn't yet formed. Mr. Dees said a limited liability company is now formed and the contract allows Mr. Csanyi to assign the contract to a company of which he is the sole member. Mr. Dees said the Board did not need to approve the contract but he suggested that for clarity the Board might want to approve the additional term of the assignment from Mr. Csanyi to a company. Mr. Dees said the Chairman would have the authority to sign the contract and also execute the deed for the transfer.

Chairman Chamberlain added that he would also like for Mr. Dees to sign the documents.

Commissioner Tadlock moved, Commissioner Blount seconded and the vote to assign the property to the LLC passed unanimously.

Commissioner Sides asked if Mr. Csanyi planned to build on the lot or if he planned to buy the lot for speculation? Mr. Dees said from the language of the previous minutes, it appears that Mr. Csanyi intended to "develop as an owner-occupied site." Mr. Dees said the issue could be addressed in the future transactions with owner-occupied versus spec buildings.

Commissioner Sides gave an example of an individual who had bought a lot in the business park in order to market the lot and build on it to suit the tenant. Commissioner Sides said this was not the purpose of the Speedway Business Park and he said he asked that this be noted in the sale of future lots.

Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed 4-1 with Commissioner Sides dissenting.

## **BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

Finance Director Leslie Heidrick highlighted the budget amendments in the agenda packet.

Commissioner Sides moved, Commissioner Tadlock seconded and the vote to approve the budget amendments as presented passed unanimously.

## **ADDTIONS**

### **DSS Christmas Party for Foster Children**

Commissioner Sides said each year DSS, along with the DSS Board, hosts an annual Christmas party for all foster children in Rowan County. Commissioner Sides said the party is held at the Cooperative Extension and that the children receive a meal and gifts. Commissioner Sides said a lot of the money, goods and food are donated to the program. Commissioner Sides there is a cost of approximately \$500-\$600 for the program and that the DSS Board members contribute towards the costs.

Commissioner Sides requested that the Board of Commissioners allocate \$250 from its surplus fund for this cause. Commissioner Sides said the DSS Board members had agreed to make up the difference.

Commissioner Sides moved, Commissioner Blount seconded and the vote to allocate \$250 from the County surplus for the Christmas party passed unanimously.

Commissioner Sides verified to Ms. Heidrick that the \$250 would come from the contingency fund.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Chairman Chamberlain opened the Public Comment Period to entertain citizen input. The following citizens addressed the Board:

- Dan Leath, 1725 North Lee Street said he would like to thank 3 of the Board members for their approval to move forward with the East Elementary School.

Mr. Leath said that at the last Board meeting the Board members had no idea of how much money the County has. Mr. Leath said the Board should have “a better handle on the money.”

Mr. Leath said 2 weeks ago the Board did not have the funds to give the Board of Education and he agreed with the Commissioners decision to force the Board of Education to “dip” into its fund balance.

Mr. Leath said he did not agree with offering former County Manager Tim Russell a severance package when he had “already took some of it.” Mr. Leath said Mr. Dees should write one letter to Mr. Russell and one to Mr.

Reamer and inform them that there would not be a severance package. Mr. Leath said Mr. Dees should instruct Mr. Russell to give back the \$23,000 that “he used for his own personal gain.”

Mr. Leath said the Board had hinted that it might have to raise taxes to pay for the school in east Rowan. Mr. Leath said the Board should use the money from the severance package instead of paying a “crook.” Mr. Leath said there were 2 Board members that don’t care. Mr. Leath said if Mr. Russell receives a severance package there would be a lot of citizens at the Board meetings because he would personally go knock on every door. Mr. Leath said the Board should let Mr. Russell sue the County, as he would rather see the money spent on fighting the severance package.

- James Rollans read prepared comments (copy provided to Assistant Clerk) regarding citizen concerns for the public hearing for CUP 01-05.
- Ted Boykin of Salisbury said he has lived in Rowan County all his life. Mr. Boykin said he could not understand the need to hire an Interim County Manager when there is a competent Board that could conduct the County’s business. Mr. Boykin suggested that the Chairman work fulltime and “run for that job if necessary; and to receive pay that is adequate to that job.” Mr. Boykin also suggested that an Administrative Assistant could support the Chairman’s position. Mr. Boykin questioned bringing an Interim County Manager from outside of Rowan County. Mr. Boykin said the Board’s job was to act on the needs of the people and the people pay taxes in order to receive those services.

With no further citizen comments, Chairman Chamberlain closed the Public Comment Period.

Chairman Chamberlain thanked the citizens for their time and input.

### **EXECUTIVE/CLOSED SESSION**

Commissioner Blount moved to go into Closed Session at 8:15 pm to discuss the following:

1. Discussion of possible settlement with Tim Russell.
2. Discussion of a personnel issue.
3. Discussion of a matter relating to location or expansion of industries and possible economic development incentives.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tadlock and passed unanimously.

### **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION/ADJOURNMENT**

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:05 pm.

### **Discussion of Possible Settlement with Tim Russell**

Commissioner Sides referred to the severance package for Tim Russell and he moved that Mr. Russell be paid nothing and that if Mr. Russell wanted to pursue legal recourse against the County that he be allowed to do so. Chairman Chamberlain seconded the motion.

Commissioner Mitchell said he did not intend to belabor the point. Commissioner Mitchell said the issue regarding the severance package had been going on since the first meeting in August and that the Board had received a lot of public input on the issue. Commissioner Mitchell said he had received many different opinions regarding the former County Manager and a severance package.

Commissioner Mitchell referred to the following comment in the Salisbury Post, which was made by a former County Commissioner, "There is not a statesman among them." Commissioner Mitchell said, "I don't know that I qualify as a statesman and I'm certain that I do not; but I will say this, If being more than a politician is to think about and be concerned about an issue, then I have certainly, as I'm sure all 5 of us have, been elevated beyond just the simple level of a politician." Commissioner Mitchell referred to another comment that had been made by a member of the audience after the vote several weeks ago to honor the contract agreement. Commissioner Mitchell said the "turncoat comment" had been directed at him because it had been Commissioner Mitchell's vote that had decided the termination and also his vote that decided on the 12-month contract. Commissioner Mitchell said he saw these as 2 separate issues. Commissioner Mitchell said the Board had felt that the County Manager had lost the faith of the public and the majority of the Board, which resulted in his termination. Commissioner Mitchell said the Board became "stuck with the mess of attempting to work through a contract that was vague and at least to some, questionable." Commissioner Mitchell said he took the blame for what might be considered his part of the situation but he said he had been unaware of an investigation of anyone in the County and that he had not approved the expenditure of funds towards investigating anyone in the County. Commissioner Mitchell said he was the one, to some extent, who had to make a decision on how to settle the issue, which came to the issue of settlement. Commissioner Mitchell said, "We are at the point now where we believe Tim Russell will either be paid between somewhere between \$100,000 or somewhere around \$400,000. We have to come to a conclusion somewhere within that window; somewhere within that range. If we take the stance of Commissioner Sides as a majority, 100% without a doubt, there will be litigation against us. Our Attorney has estimated that litigation will cost potentially over \$50,000. That, in my opinion, is not a wise way to spend anyone's money litigating that issue. When looking at the severance package and how much we will pay Mr. Russell, I am willing to support \$179,500." Commissioner Mitchell explained that the rationale behind the figure could be reviewed in several ways; 1) the 12-month contract, which would be \$145,449 plus the 60-day notice amount, plus an annual leave amount, which comes to \$179,500; or 2) 6-month 1994 contract, which no one

doubts is valid, adding in the annual leave and the 60-day notice amount. Commissioner Mitchell said the Board was “simply avoiding litigation costs.” Commissioner Mitchell said his initial reaction “is not to pay anyone one cent” but when he logically considers the situation, he could not make that decision. Commissioner Mitchell said he did not question the other Board members motives and that he felt all Board members had given the issue due thoughts. Commissioner Mitchell referred to comments made by Mr. Leath during the past several Public Comment Periods and said he agreed with Mr. Leath 100%. Commissioner Mitchell said it aggravated him to have had to make decisions regarding terminations and also on the severance package. Commissioner Mitchell specifically asked the public to forgive him for his mistake of extending the 2004 contract and said he hoped the public and Rowan County could move on. Commissioner Mitchell said he sincerely hoped the public would forgive him because he felt the mistake would end up costing the County approximately \$50,000. Commissioner Mitchell said the \$50,000 amounts to the Board avoiding litigation fees. Commissioner Mitchell pointed out that if the Board was sued, there was no way of knowing how a judge would rule. Commissioner Mitchell said he was not willing to gamble a \$400,000 judgment against the County.

Commissioner Sides said he had made a major concession to the Board in stating that he would vote for the 1994 contract because he thought there would be a “5 way vote.” Commissioner Sides referred to a letter he held from Mr. Russell and he said the letter was addressed to only 3 Commissioners on the Board. Commissioner Sides said, “If it were not for the County Attorney, I would not even have a copy of it.” Commissioner Sides said Mr. Russell stated in the letter that Commissioner Sides could not give a “fair decision.” Commissioner Sides said the fact that he had been willing to support the 1994 contract proved that he was much more than fair. Commissioner Sides said the letter indicates that “Tim Russell, even when he doesn’t work for this County, hasn’t caught on – this is still a 5-member Board.” Commissioner Sides said his name and Chairman Chamberlain’s name were not listed in the heading of the letter. Commissioner Sides said he had intended to come out of Executive Session and make a motion that the Board accept the 1994 contract but because of what has gone on, “I won’t support anything. I would go to court and spend the county taxpayers money to defend my position.”

Chairman Chamberlain dittoed Commissioner Sides’ comments.

Upon being put to a vote, the motion failed 2-3 with Commissioners Blount Mitchell and Tadlock dissenting.

Commissioner Blount moved to enter into a settlement agreement with past County Manager Tim Russell for:

- Total amount of settlement is \$179,500 minus amounts paid since the August 2, 2005 termination date.

- Terms of the payment would be that if Mr. Russell were convicted of a felony involving personal gain that the money would be due back to the County.
- The payment would be made in a lump sum. It was requested to be made on the first payroll of October but would be expanded to the first pay period date after the settlement has signed – this was the purpose of saving the County the FICA insurance payment on that money as a payroll issue.
- Pay for Mr. Russell’s health insurance for the remainder of the first year or until he gets another job.
- There is an issue regarding retirement benefits, based on the County’s retirement policy and that is how the agreement will be written as how the current policy states.

Commissioner Blount asked Mr. Dees if he had included all details in the motion and Mr. Dees clarified that the health insurance is not actually paid out of pocket since the County is self-insured. Mr. Dees said Mr. Russell would remain a liability on the County’s policy.

Commissioner Blount repeated that the motion is to enter into an agreement for \$179,500 with those terms. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion.

Commissioner Sides said he would like to clarify that the County does pay for insurance in that it puts \$600 per month in an account for every employee. Commissioner Sides pointed out this is a cost to the County of \$7200 per year and in addition, if Mr. Russell is a “major liability we’ll spend a lot more than that.” Commissioner Sides said the letter from Mr. Russell also asks that if he retires, the County extend to him the same benefit for retiree insurance until he becomes Medicare eligible. Commissioner Sides stressed that the severance package was not just for \$179,500.

Commissioner Blount said, “As I stated in the motion, that part of the agreement would be handled per our personnel policy.”

The motion on the floor passed 3-2 with Commissioners Chamberlain and Sides dissenting.

Commissioner Mitchell said in order to bring some level of closure to “the felony for personal gain issue, and to also determine if whether or not the actions of our former County Manager were appropriate in many instances or not, I move to instruct our Attorney to bring back a proposal to have an independent investigator look at the actions that were taken by our former County Manager. Commissioner Blount seconded the motion. Commissioner Blount asked Commissioner Mitchell if he was “relating that to the issue of the Kiker Investigation?” Commissioner Mitchell responded, “Actually, a full-scale audit.”

The motion passed unanimously.

### **Discussion of a Personnel Issue**

Commissioner Sides moved to employ Carolyn Athey as Clerk to the Board. The motion was followed by a second from Commissioner Mitchell.

Commissioner Tadlock pointed out that the appointment came as a recommendation from the Personnel Board.

Commissioner Blount commented that he was concerned that the position was only advertised internally and that one application was received. Commissioner Blount said if he had been asked prior the process, he would have suggested that the position be advertised in a more broad manner and for a longer period of time. Commissioner Blount said he thought Ms. Athey would do a great job and that he looked forward to working with her but that he had concerns over the hiring process.

Chairman Chamberlain said the process “was the job of the Personnel Board” and “Our last Clerk was hired under a very similar fashion.”

The motion on the floor passed unanimously.

Chairman Chamberlain welcomed Ms. Athey to the position.

### **EDC**

Commissioner Blount moved to schedule a public hearing for the purpose of deliberating an incentive grant to an economic development prospect at the next meeting at a time designated by the Clerk. Chairman Chamberlain seconded the motion.

Chairman Chamberlain instructed the Clerk to put the public hearing on the agenda for the next meeting.

Commissioner Sides said he was opposed to the entire incentive package policy of the Board. Commissioner Sides said this happens to be a local company who has threatened to leave if the incentives are not received. Commissioner Sides said, “I’ve been told all along that we would never pay a company to stay in Rowan County and that’s exactly what we’re going to be asked to do.”

Commissioner Tadlock said he respected the comments of Commissioner Sides. Commissioner Tadlock said he would be in favor of doing nothing if it was the typical practice of other counties/states. Commissioner Tadlock said he had been concerned about local, existing businesses and that he had heard people say they would rather have 100 small businesses rather than 1 large business that might not last. Commissioner Tadlock said it has been his goal to help existing businesses stay in Rowan County. Commissioner Tadlock said he

would like to salute and say thank you to all the businesses in Rowan County. Commissioner Tadlock said he wished the particular business under discussion well and he said the proposed expansion was an upgrade to what they have. Commissioner Tadlock said the company would maintain its other building.

Chairman Chamberlain reminded Commissioner Tadlock that the Board was only scheduling the public hearing and he cautioned him to be careful with his comments.

Upon being put to a vote, the motion on the floor passed 4-1 with Commissioner Sides dissenting.

With no further business, Commissioner Blount moved, Commissioner Sides seconded and the vote to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 pm passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Athey  
Clerk to the Board