

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
May 5, 2008 – 4:00 PM
J. NEWTON COHEN, SR. ROOM
J. NEWTON COHEN, SR. ROWAN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

Present: Arnold S. Chamberlain, Chairman
Chad Mitchell, Vice-Chairman
Jon Barber, Member
Tina Hall, Member
Jim Sides, Member

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

Chairman Chamberlain convened the meeting at 4:00 pm.

Commissioner Mitchell provided the Invocation.

Boy Scout Troop #443, along with Assistant Scout Master Alan Cook, from St. John's Lutheran Church led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Barber moved approval of the minutes of the April 21, 2008 Commission Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

CONSIDER DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

- Commissioner Sides moved to pull the budget amendment in the amount of \$3,000 (from Sheriff's Department for postage). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hall and passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Sides made a motion to remove item #G from the Consent Agenda (Approval to Exempt Engineering Services from Bidding Requirements for Planning and Development Erosion Control Services).

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hall and passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Mitchell moved, Commissioner Barber seconded and the vote to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

1. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Sides moved, Commissioner Barber seconded and the vote to approve the Consent Agenda passed unanimously (with the exception of item #G, which was removed from the agenda).

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following items:

- A. Approval of Proclamation Declaring May as Older Americans Month

Proclamation
Older Americans Month

WHEREAS, Rowan County is a community in which 24,982 citizens age 60 or older make their home; and

WHEREAS, older adults in Rowan County and throughout the U.S. are a growing population with evolving needs; and

WHEREAS, older Americans are valuable members of our society who are rich with experience and deserving of our respect; and

WHEREAS, the number of baby boomers reaching traditional retirement age continues to increase, a fact that spotlights the need for increased attention to the needs of older adults; and

WHEREAS, our older citizens of today and tomorrow promise to be among the most active and engaged older adult populations in our Nation's history;

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of this and all U.S. communities to work together and prepare for changing older adult populations by modernizing systems of care and providing consumers with more control over their lives; and

WHEREAS, overall quality of life can be greatly enhance with community-based services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Rowan County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim May 2008 to be Older Americans Month and take this time to honor our older adults and the professionals, family members, and citizens who care for older adults.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners recommend all citizens work collaboratively to strengthen the services that Rowan County provides to its older adults in ways that recognize the changing nature of their needs, and provide older adults with more opportunities to make informed choices about their lives, ultimately improving the lives of our older citizens and helping to pave the way for future generations.

B. Approval of Proclamation for “Let’s Get Connected Day”

PROCLAMATION
LET’S GET CONNECTED DAY

WHEREAS, The Salisbury-Rowan Human Relations Council and its subcommittee, the Covenant Community Connection, strives to promote unity, cooperation, and understanding among the various and diverse faith groups throughout our community; and

WHEREAS, “Let’s Get Connected Day” is a gathering of social unity for all citizens of our community for a day of friendship, fun, and festivities; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that prayer is a deeply personal experience and is an expression of our individual dispositions as well as our religious convictions; and

WHEREAS, the Circle of Prayer symbolizes the unification of diverse people and faith groups by joining hands in prayer for harmony, peace and understanding; and

WHEREAS, Let’s Get Connected Day will bring the diverse faith groups throughout our community together to pray for our community and our world, and to promote understanding across racial, cultural and religious boundaries.

NOW, THEREFORE, The Rowan County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim Saturday, May 17th, 2008 as LET’S GET CONNECTED DAY in Rowan County, and encourage participation by our fellow citizens to join in prayer for our community at noon on this day.

C. Approval of Proclamation for Emergency Medical Services Week

PROCLAMATION
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK
MAY 18-24, 2008

WHEREAS, emergency medical services is a vital public service; and

WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

WHEREAS, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

WHEREAS, emergency medical services providers have traditionally served as the safety net of America's health care system; and

WHEREAS, emergency medical services teams consist of emergency physicians, emergency nurses, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, firefighters, educators, administrators, and others; and

WHEREAS, approximately two-thirds of all emergency medical services providers are volunteers; and

WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and

WHEREAS, Americans benefit daily from the knowledge and skills of these highly trained individuals; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of emergency medical services providers by designating Emergency Medical Services Week; and

WHEREAS, injury prevention and the appropriate use of the EMS system will help reduce national health care costs; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Rowan County Board of Commissioners, in recognition of this event do hereby proclaim the week of May 18-24, 2008 as EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK and encourage the community to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.

- D. Set Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing for May 19, 2008 for CUP 27-01 (Amendment) for Request from Todd Beckham
- E. Set Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing for May 19, 2008 for CUP 02-08 for Request from Premier Holding Company, LLC
- F. Set Public Hearing for May 19, 2008 for Special Consideration of Proposed Road Name of Teakwood Trail
- G. Approval to Exempt Engineering Services from Bidding Requirements for Planning and Development Erosion Control Services (This item was removed from the agenda).
- H. Approval of Resolution of Intent to Close an Unopened Portion of Candlewick Drive and Set Public Hearing for June 2, 2008 for Petition

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chairman Chamberlain opened the Public Comment Period to entertain comments from any citizens wishing to address the Board. The following individuals came forward:

- Larry Wright of 170 Heritage Lane in Salisbury expressed appreciation with the easy manner the Board provides for citizens to speak to the Board. Mr. Wright said he had reviewed Board of Elections records and learned that three (3) Salisbury City Council members, as well as the City Attorney, had contributed financially to the campaign of Raymond Coltrain (seeking office of Rowan County Commissioner). Mr. Wright said the information should cause some voters to think before voting.
- Corinne Mauldin, 385 Winterlocken Road, Salisbury, addressed the Board regarding what she felt were education inequities in Rowan County. (Kimberly Lentz of 406 Oakwood Drive in Spencer yielded her time for Public Comment to Ms. Mauldin). Ms. Mauldin said she had also recently attended the Board of Education (BOE) meetings pertaining to the same issues. Ms. Mauldin said she currently served as the PTA President for North Rowan High School (NRHS) and was in attendance as their representative to speak on serious concerns pertaining to the school. Ms. Mauldin said her school was the lowest performing school in the County and was currently on Governor Easley's "watch list". Ms. Mauldin reported that the reformed program would cost an estimated minimum of \$20,000 in the first year to educate teachers and bring them up to speed as to what is necessary to turn the school around. Ms. Mauldin said the plan must be presented and approved by the State. Ms. Mauldin felt the monies would not have to be spent if the BOE had looked at the situation two (2) years ago with the redistricting plan. Ms. Mauldin said the only part of the plan that was not approved was the portion that would have benefited NRHS. Ms. Mauldin said enrollment dropped and caused the school to become part of the Governor's watch list. Ms. Mauldin said the decreased enrollment had caused the North Carolina Athletic Association (NCAA) to place NRHS into a different conference. Ms. Mauldin emphasized that NRHS had been only thirteen (13) students shy of being allowed to remain in the same conference. Ms. Mauldin said the NCAA goes strictly by student numbers when considering conference alignment. Ms. Mauldin said the conference change would require more funding since the change would require student athletes to travel a minimum of 800 miles in any given season. Ms. Mauldin said it was a no-win situation for NRHS and she felt the reason for the situation was the BOE did not take appropriate action for NRHS. Ms. Mauldin asked the Commissioners to discuss the matter and open a dialog with the BOE regarding the needs for NRHS. Ms. Mauldin said NRHS was only 61% at capacity and she asked the Board to consider helping to solve some of the inequities in the educational opportunities that exist.

Commissioner Sides asked if it would be too late for NRHS to remain in its current conference if thirteen (13) students were placed at the school. Ms. Mauldin said NRHS was “stuck” for two (2) years. Ms. Mauldin said the only way to solve the problem was to make the students closest to NRHS actually attend the school.

3. PUBLIC HEARING FOR UNANIMOUS PETITION FOR RED TRACTOR TRAIL

Planning Technician Fredda Greer reported that a petition was received in the planning office to name a road that is currently unnamed and located off the 1200 block of Barnhardt Road. There are currently three (3) residential structures addressed on Barnhardt Road. Staff recommended approval of the proposed road name of Red Tractor Trail.

Chairman Chamberlain opened the public hearing to receive citizen input regarding the proposed road name of Red Tractor Trail.

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

Commissioner Mitchell moved, Commissioner Barber seconded and the vote to approve the road name of Red Tractor Trail passed unanimously.

4. PUBLIC HEARING TO CLOSE OUT 2005 SCATTERED SITE HOUSING PROJECT

Alicia Broadway of Benchmark CMR, Inc. reported that as a requirement of Community Development Block Grant funds, local governments must provide citizens the opportunity to offer comments with regards to the use of the funds.

Ms. Broadway said a close-out public hearing was necessary for completion of the County’s 2005 Scattered Site Housing Project (CDBG Grant #05-C-1372). Ms. Broadway said the third and final monitoring visit was conducted the previous week and there were no findings. Ms. Broadway said most of the funds had been spent; the remaining balance on May 1, 2008 was \$2,392. Ms. Broadway said there was an outstanding administrative fee of \$1,350 and an invoice had also been sent to Finance for \$400 for a lead clearance test. Ms. Broadway said only \$642 out of the \$400,000 grant would be returned to the Division of Community Assistance (DCA).

Ms. Broadway reported that eight (8) units had been completed at an approximate average cost of \$41,268.78. Ms. Broadway thanked the Board for the opportunity to have helped Rowan’s citizens.

Chairman Chamberlain opened the public hearing to receive citizen input regarding the 2005 Scattered Site Housing Project.

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

Commissioner Sides moved to close out the 2005 Scattered Site Housing Project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barber and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Sides expressed appreciation to Benchmark for their assistance with the project.

Chairman Chamberlain praised Commissioner Sides for his involvement in the grant process.

5. PUBLIC HEARING FOR SCATTERED SITE/CDBG APPLICATION FOR FY 2008-09

Planning and Development Director Ed Muire explained that Rowan County had made application to the North Carolina Department of Commerce Division of Community Assistance (DCA) for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the amount of \$400,000. Rowan County anticipates receiving the funding in FY 2008-09 and applying it toward the rehabilitation of seven (7) homes and emergency repairs to eight (8) homes. The grant program provides for activities related to emergency repair, rehabilitation and relocation, and demolition. Mr. Muire said the DCA application process required a public hearing for any CDBG program the County may choose to apply for during the next twelve (12) months. Mr. Muire reported that the Board of Commissioners would consider homes selected for inclusion in the program at another public hearing.

Chairman Chamberlain opened the public hearing to receive citizen input regarding the Scattered Site/CDBG Application.

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

Commissioner Sides moved approval of the application. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barber and passed unanimously.

6. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

Chairman Chamberlain said the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) was an advisory board to the Commissioners and had submitted its funding recommendations for the Commissioners consideration for fiscal year 2008-09.

Commissioner Sides said there were several changes he would like to recommend and he moved to: 1) pull funds in the amount of \$21,537 from the Teen Court Program and move those funds to Communities in Schools (CIS), increasing the CIS funding allocation to \$65,799; and 2) to pull \$4,510 from the

YOUth Train Program, moving the funds to the JCPC Certification to allow the County Manager's Office Administrative Secretary to continue to provide staff support. The second half of Commissioner Sides' motion reduced the YOUth Train Program allocation to \$51,331. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hall and passed unanimously.

Chairman Chamberlain said juvenile crime prevention funds totaled \$328,852. Chairman Chamberlain expressed appreciation to Terry King who was in the audience and who serves as the JCPC Chairman.

7. SCHEDULE DATES FOR BUDGET WORK SESSION(S)

Chairman Chamberlain reported that the Interim County Manager/Finance Director Leslie Heidrick would submit the proposed budget immediately following the May 19, 2008 Commission Meeting. Chairman Chamberlain suggested that the Board consider May 27 and May 28 as dates for work sessions, beginning possibly at 9:00 am or at 3:00 pm. Chairman Chamberlain also suggested that the Board conduct its regular meeting at 4:00 pm on June 2, 2008 and conduct the public hearing for the budget at 6:00 pm. Chairman Chamberlain said on June 16, 2008 the Board would meet in regular session at 7:00 pm and hopefully be ready to adopt the budget ordinances.

Commissioner Sides moved to set the work sessions for May 27 and May 28 at 3:00 pm. Commissioner Barber seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

8. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Interim County Manager/Finance Director Leslie Heidrick presented the following budget amendments for the Board's consideration:

- Rowan County Sheriff's Department – Recognize funds donated from Innospec Company and place in C.R.D.E. account for utilization by Community Safety Officers - \$200
- To budget excess revenue from State Asset Forfeiture and establish postage account to conduct a public survey to determine willingness to support the expenditure of public funds to construct a new Detention Center - \$3,000 (This budget amendment was removed from the agenda).

Commissioner Barber moved, Commissioner Mitchell seconded and the vote to approve the budget amendment as presented passed unanimously.

9. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BOARD APPOINTMENTS

SALISBURY ROWAN COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY

Bill Godair's term ended on March 31, 2008 and he is eligible for reappointment. If approved, the term would be for two years, expiring March 31, 2010.

Commissioner Barber nominated Bill Godair and the nomination carried unanimously.

FRANKLIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT (VFD)

The Franklin VFD is requesting the appointment of three (3) new fire commissioners and has submitted the following applications for consideration:

- Mike Trexler
- Steve Thurston
- Romas Shoaf, Jr.
- Ronald V. Sells

The term would be for two (2) years beginning May 1, 2008 and expiring April 30, 2010.

Commissioner Barber nominated Mike Trexler and the nomination carried unanimously.

Commissioner Barber nominated Steve Thurston and the nomination carried unanimously.

Commissioner Barber nominated Romas Shoaf, Jr. and the nomination carried unanimously.

LOCKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT (VFD)

The Locke VFD is requesting the appointment of one (1) new fire commissioner and has submitted the following applications for consideration:

- Ernest Cowan
- John Miller

The term would be for two (2) years beginning May 1, 2008 and expiring April 30, 2010.

Commissioner Barber nominated Ernest Cowan and the nomination passed unanimously.

LOCKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

North Carolina General Statute 58-84-30 provides for each fire department to have a Board of Trustees to monitor monies received from the State for the Fireman's Relief Fund. This Statute states the Board of Commissioners shall appoint two (2) members of the five (5) member Board.

Locke VFD is requesting the appointment of two (2) trustees and has submitted the following applications for consideration:

- Chad Michael
- David Linker
- Candace McKnight

The term would begin May 1, 2008 and expire December 31, 2008.

Commissioner Barber nominated Chad Michael and the nomination passed unanimously.

Commissioner Barber nominated David Linker and the nomination passed unanimously.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (CJPP)

Sylvia Warren has submitted an application to serve on the CJPP in the capacity of Community Service Coordinator. Ms. Warren would complete the term of Trudy Gale, which expires on June 30, 2010.

Commissioner Mitchell nominated Sylvia Warren and the nomination carried unanimously.

ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Mary Henley has resigned from the Board of Health. Jill McNeely and Susan Thomas have submitted applications to serve the remainder of Ms. Henley's term, which expires December 31, 2009.

Commissioner Mitchell nominated Susan Thomas and the nomination carried unanimously.

AIRPORT TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

The TAC is recommending the appointment of two (2) additional members. Also, there is one vacancy on the Committee due to the recent passing of member Bruce Allen.

The following applications have been received for consideration:

- Brian Cooker
- Don Kirkley Beatty
- B. Clay Lindsay, Jr.

Commissioner Sides nominated Brian Cooker, Dink Safriet and Clay Lindsay. The nomination carried unanimously.

ROWAN COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)

There is currently one vacancy on this Commission due to the resignation of Rick Hudson. Bruce Jones' term expires June 30, 2008, however Mr. Jones is not eligible for reappointment. Also, Harold Earnhardt and Raymond Coltrain's terms will expire on June 30, 2008 and both are eligible for reappointment.

Chairman Chamberlain reported that at this time, one application has been received from Jim Greene. Chairman Chamberlain said the Board needed

applications from business representatives and he suggested the Board either advertise for applications or discuss the EDC Board in the business community to generate interest for more applications.

Commissioner Barber said the Board did not typically advertise and that he would hate to see the Board start now. Commissioner Barber said with the Commissioners' business contacts, perhaps the Board could generate some interest. Chairman Chamberlain responded that the Board does from time to time advertise for applicants to serve on the various boards.

Commissioner Hall said due to the importance of the EDC Board, she would like to see the Board advertise to seek applications for the EDC Board.

Commissioner Sides moved to advertise to seek applications for the EDC Board. Commissioner Sides said he was not displeased with anyone currently serving on the EDC Board; however, he felt the County needed business individuals serving on the EDC Board to provide input.

Commissioner Barber said the municipalities provide funding to the EDC and he suggested that contact be made with the municipalities to encourage them to seek their individuals within their jurisdictions to serve on the EDC Board.

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

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Barber moved to adjourn at 4:45 pm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Athey
Clerk to the Board