

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SPECIAL EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE
ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
May 22, 2014 – 6:00 PM
J. NEWTON COHEN, SR. ROOM
J. NEWTON COHEN, SR. ROWAN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

Present: Jim Sides, Chairman
Jon Barber, Member
Mike Caskey, Member
Chad Mitchell, Member

Absent: Craig Pierce, Vice-Chairman

Clerk to the Board Carolyn Barger, County Attorney Jay Dees and Finance Director Leslie Heidrick were present. County Manager Gary Page was absent.

Chairman Sides convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman Sides provided the Invocation and also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Barber moved, Commissioner Mitchell seconded and the vote to approve the agenda passed unanimously (4-0; Commissioner Pierce was absent).

1. DISCUSSION TO CONSIDER SCHEDULING OF A SECOND PUBLIC HEARING FOR WEST END PLAZA FINANCING PROPOSALS

Chairman Sides apologized for calling the meeting on short notice. Chairman Sides explained that due to the number of calls and comments, including the editorial in the Salisbury Post, he felt in the spirit of cooperation and to honor the law to the letter, it would be a good for the Board to hold another public hearing concerning the financing proposals for the West End Plaza. Chairman Sides said the second public hearing would allow the individuals who did not have an opportunity to speak at the first hearing to voice their opinion.

Commissioner Mitchell was agreeable to setting a public hearing on June 2, 2014 after the budget public hearing. Commissioner Mitchell said the public hearing

for the proposed budget was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. and he was agreeable to schedule the public hearing on the financing proposals for 7:30 p.m. Commissioner Mitchell said if the Board members were agreeable, he would make a motion to this effect.

Chairman Sides said he would like to add to the motion, if Commissioner Mitchell would consider the addition.

Chairman Sides repeated the date of the public hearing would be June 2, 2014 at 7:30 p.m., or as soon as possible thereafter. Chairman Sides added the time for each person to speak would be three (3) minutes each; a sign up sheet would be provided and all those who signed up prior to the hearing would be allowed to speak. Chairman Sides said the rules for order and decorum for the meeting would be no signs, no clapping, no open comments from the audience while the hearing is in progress.

Commissioner Mitchell said if there was a second to the motion, "that would be my motion". Commissioner Caskey seconded the motion.

Commissioner Barber said for the record that he believed the meeting was illegal, as he did not feel it was an emergency meeting. Commissioner Barber asked that the meeting be properly noticed as a regular meeting and held next week. Commissioner Barber described the only emergency for the meeting as a "political emergency" and said the law did not allow for it. Commissioner Barber repeated that he felt the meeting was illegal.

Upon being put to a vote, the motion on the floor passed 3-1 with Commissioner Barber dissenting. (Commissioner Pierce was absent).

2. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Mitchell moved to adjourn at 6:05 p.m. The motion was seconded by Chairman Sides and passed unanimously (4-0; Commissioner Pierce was absent).

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Barger, CMC, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board/
Assistant to the County Manager