

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 10, 1986

The Board of Rowan County Commissioners met in Regular Session in the Community Building on March 10, 1986 at 9:30 A.M. The following members were present: Commissioner Jamima DeMarcus, Commissioner Harry Sifford, Commissioner Richard Messinger, Commissioner J. Newton Cohen and Chairman Hall Steele.

Chairman Hall Steele called the meeting to order and Commissioner Messinger opened with prayer.

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve the minutes of February 3 and February 26 as presented. Commissioner Messinger seconded with unanimous approval.

As additions to the Agenda: Commissioner Sifford asked for Executive Session in order to talk about a potential contract with the Health Department.

Commissioners had to move this meeting to the 10th due to a Washington NACO Conference. They regularly meet the 1st. Monday of each month. Also. they felt a necessity to delay this meeting to 9:30 instead of 9:00 due to a breakfast to meet Congressman Bill Hefner.

Monthly reports: Commissioner DeMarcus said she had attended all of her assigned committee meetings but the only one that she wanted to report on today is the joint meeting of the Parks-Recreation and Historic Properties Commission . She said they had met with Gardner Gidley & Associates to discuss the study of Sloan Park and the acquirement of the log house. This is pending until the study is completed.

Mr. Wayne Simpson, Tax Collector reported total tax collections for February, \$1,049,904.31. He also reported on ambulance fee collections. He said 75% has been achieved in collecting ambulance payments. Commissioner Sifford said this is an excellent record based on other counties. Chairman Steele asked him what would be his opinion of level to expect in collections. Mr. Simpson said hopefully, in the high sixties. He informed the Commissioners that there were a lot of payments that he would not be able to collect. Payments from the deceased destitute. Commissioner Sifford then made a motion to give Mr. Simpson the authority to write off by way of a memorandum to clear the books of those persons destitute at time

of death. Commissioner Messinger seconded with unanimous approval.

Mr. Paul Phillippi and Joe Taylor told Commissioners that they had a signed petition bearing approximately 2,000 names representing county-wide interest of the elderly for a Rowan County Senior Citizens Center. Mr. Taylor referred to this center as a "Sunshine Center". They asked that the County pay the money up-front but the county's money would be repaid. Mr. Taylor told them that \$68,000 was available in state funds. The senior citizens have formed a non-profit corporation to raise the rest of the money and the estimated \$50,000 a year operating expenses. The corporation has deposited \$1,000 with the owner to hold the building (Wiley School) for two and one-half months. Commissioner DeMarcus suggested that we contact Centralina now to make the necessary moves for making funds available for a senior citizens center for this region. Commissioner Messinger suggested waiting to see what the Agriculture Building runs into and then try to reach an agreement.

Mr. Lipe Barrier gave the Commissioners an up-date report on the soil survey. He said that mapping had been completed on 77,000 acres of the county's 325,625 acres. December, 1989 is the approximate date of finishing up, Mr. Barrier reported. Commissioner Sifford told Mr. Barrier that they were looking for a landfill site and that he could help target an area since he knew soil characteristics.

Commissioners set April 7, 1986 at 1:30 p.m. Commissioner's Red Room for the Board of Equilization and Review.

Commissioner Cohen told Mr. Peeler, Tax Supervisor that the Building Inspection Department could help him evaluate new construction and additions to buildings.

Commissioner Messinger said the County School budget should be received within the next thirty days. He said it was up 17% over this year's budget. He gave commissioners a copy of the county's appropriations to the Rowan County Schools over the last six years for their review. Commissioner Cohen said he had requested that he be furnished with a list of teachers and who pays them in all schools.

County Manager, Tim Russell reported Interest earned through February 28, 1986:

General Fund.....	\$310,000
Revenue Sharing.....	20,000
Myrtis Nicholas.....	-----
Drainage.....	-----
Revaluation.....	<u>18,000</u>

Total Funds..... \$ 348,000

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve the interest report copy that Mr. Russell had submitted. Commissioner Messinger seconded with unanimous approval.

County Manager reported personnel for February, 1986:

Donald Everhart, Sworn Jailer monthly salary-\$1,061
replacing John Barnwell at -\$1,323

William Williams, Jailer - monthly salary- \$1,061
replacing Tony Bare at - \$1,143

Danny Kurfus, Sworn Dispatcher- monthly salary-\$1,036
replacing Clarence Bumgarner-\$963.00

Eddie Kluttz, Sworn Deputy Sheriff, monthly salary-
\$1,389-replacing Gary Smith-\$1,088

Rebecca Wadsworth, Public Health Educator II, monthly
salary-\$1,422- new position, Health

Catherine Basinger, Elig. Specialist I, Social Services
monthly salary-\$938, replacing
Debra Cassidy at \$1,011

Robin Ennis, Office Assistant, II, Sheriff's Dept.
monthly salary- \$771, new position

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to approve the personnel and the copy of personnel furnished to them by the County Manager. Commissioner Messinger seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Cohen made a motion to approve ambulance refund payments. Thirty-Nine refunds totalling \$1,468.62. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval.

County Manager reported refunds: To: Floyd M. Parker the amount of \$268.35 due to an error made by W.P. Ferris, Inc. when they keyed in Mr. Parker's land description. Second refund to: Troy L. Anderson the amount of \$28.07 due to tax being paid

twice on a mobile home. Third refund to: Floyd Wilkins the amount of \$17.75 due to improper tax listing on a car. Fourth refund to: Don R.Safrit the amount of \$29.01 for tax being paid twice on a car. Commissioner Cohen made a motion to approve the refunds. Commissioner Messinger seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Cohen made a motion to approve paying the bill to Tennent & Tennent, Architect, for Architectural Service at the new county building totalling \$900.00. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Cohen made a motion to approve paying the bill to Forsyth Detention Center for housing juveniles 32 days in December, amount \$480.00. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner DeMarcus moved the approval to sale two card catalog units belonging to the Rowan County Public Library to Nancy Bates, Director of the Davidson County Public Library for the amount of \$800.00 to come back in the Rowan County General Fund. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval. Mr. Barton had requested to put the money into the building fund for the expansion of the library. Commissioner Messinger felt like they had done enough with the bond issue.

County Manager said the lease was approved to the National Guard for 2.87 acres of land located at Rowan County National Guard Facility at Rowan County Airport by the Council of State. The matter is being referred to the Attorney General's Office for the preparation of the necessary document to be sent to Rowan County Manager.

Budget Amendment: Commissioner Cohen made a motion to approve the budget amendment requested by the Health Department to increase revenue line item for rat poison sales at \$550 and also increase expense item for purchase of poison. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval.

County Manager read a letter from Liberty Volunteer Fire Department requesting that they would like to go on record requesting the donation of the next ambulance to be taken out of

service. Commissioners agreed that they needed a policy to service these needs.

Commissioner Cohen made a motion to have an account set up showing a balance of \$500.00 in order to have cards printed and buy film for the ID Card process. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Cohen made a motion to approve road petitions for residents on Julius Drive and a portion of Claude Avenue in West Winds Court Subdivision. Commissioner Messinger seconded with unanimous approval.

Board Appointments: Commissioner Messinger made a motion to appoint James Hicks to the Historic Properties Commission. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Sifford made a motion that Terry Barber replace Joe Sulkowski on the Emergency Services Advisory Council and that Wayne Ashworth be appointed as a third member. Commissioner Messinger seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Sifford moved that Dr. John Barr be represented on the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council and to notify Dr. David Skowronek about the appointment. Commissioner Messinger seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to appoint Walter Thompson to replace Bob Iddings as one of Miller Ferry's District Fire Commissioners. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

Commissioner Messinger made a motion to appoint Elbert Culp to replace Ted Meachum as one of Locke Township Fire Department's Fire Commissioners. Commissioner Cohen seconded with unanimous approval.

Chairman Steele recommended that the fire departments be asked to submit three names for future appointments so they could decide who to appoint; and to let Robert Gunn, Fire Marshall follow up on this.

Commissioner DeMarcus made a motion to reappoint Kenny Eugene Deal to the China Grove Planning Board. Commissioner Sifford seconded with unanimous approval.

After a short recess, Chairman Steele called the meeting back to order to hear from the Citizens requesting a County Referendum Liquor-by-the-drink. Mr. Jack Owens, representing citizens for an election that would add liquor by the drink to the already present county liquor system of state stores, said this would control the sale of alcohol and bring more jobs, revenue, construction and development to Rowan County. Rev. Garland Faw, speaking in opposition, said this would bring untold human suffering requesting that the people be given a choice to abolish the sale of alcohol altogether. No one else wishing to speak for or against, Commissioner Messinger moved that the Board of Commissioners of Rowan County hereby requests a Mixed Beverage Election pursuant to Chapter 18B of the North Carolina General Statutes and that a written request from the Board of Commissioners of Rowan County for such election be forwarded immediately to the Rowan County Board of Elections. Resolved Further, that pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes Sec. 18B-602 (h), the ballot shall state the proposition as follows: To permit the sale of mixed beverages in hotels, restaurants, private clubs, community theaters and convention centers.", with squares labeled "FOR" and "AGAINST" beneath or beside such words in which squares the voter may record his choice. Commissioner Sifford seconded. Commissioner Cohen offering a substitute motion to require citizens of the idea to collect petitions with the names of 35% of registered voters asking for the referendum. His motion died for the lack of a second. Back to the original motion. The motion passing with Commissioner Cohen voting against. Commissioner Messinger said he believed that the action taken today would be a move for better control of alcohol.

Rev. Wilkerson submitted to Commissioners a proposed ordinance reconstituting the Salisbury/Rowan Good Neighbor Council as Salisbury/Rowan Human Relations Council. He said the City Council would take action on this April 1 and is requesting that the County Commissioners concur. Under this ordinance eighteen members would be appointed. Six to be appointed by the City Council of Salisbury, six to be appointed by the Rowan County Commissioners and six to be appointed by the Human

Relations Council with staggering terms. Commissioner Sifford recommended adding a clause to Section VIII, "that all prior ordinances, if any, be repealed". He then made a motion to authorize the passing of the ordinance and to add the additional three members at the next meeting. Commissioner DeMarcus seconded with unanimous approval.

Mike Byrd with the Cabarrus County Planning Department told Commissioners that when the original transportation plan was done, Kannapolis was not incorporated so they are doing it again. The new plan will include Kannapolis as a City. Mr. Byrd is requesting that a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Concord, City of Kannapolis, Town of China Grove, Town of Landis, Cabarrus County, Rowan County and North Carolina Board of Transportation be approved for maintaining a continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative transportation planning process. Commissioners made a correction to page 7, third paragraph, under Rowan County, to delete the word zoning, Rowan County does not coordinate any zoning. Commissioners agreed to defer to clear their minds. Commissioner Sifford said he wanted to check on a couple of details.

Mr. Russell informed the Commissioners that he had received a letter from the Town of Granite Quarry saying that their regular Town Board had met and the Board members decided to discontinue the cooperative service of the Faith-Granite Quarry Police Authority on June 30, 1986.

Mr. Russell told Commissioners that House Bill 1314 carried a good many options. The effect on individual taxpayers would vary with the level of property taxation. All families that have the same taxable spending would pay the same amount in additional sales taxes as a result of the increase in the total sales tax rate to 8% on all items including motor vehicles.

County Manager received a letter from the State Goals and Policy Board and the North Carolina Education Council who are seeking public input and recommendations on capital needs of public schools, transportation, water and sewer systems, parks and prisons; the impact of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act on public education(handicapped, disadvantaged, and vocational education programs, etc. Commissioner DeMarcus said she was on this board and that she would be going to their meeting on

Wednesday, March 12 and she would be glad to take their comments with her to present.

County Manager told Commissioners that they needed a planning process in order to work with the 1986-87 budget. He told Commissioners that last year's budget caused a lot of work, looking at it line by line. He said a lot of it could be eliminated before being presented to Commissioners. Mr. Russell recommended that he and subcommittees hear budget requests before the entire board hears them. Any changes will come before the full board. Chairman Steele said this will be taken as information.

Commissioner Messinger said that when more than two Commissioners meet together, it becomes a public meeting and that it is easier to work things out when board members can sit down privately.

Commissioner DeMarcus said she felt like she was being left out of the discussions that go on with the Personnel Advisory Committee. She said she felt very strongly about some salary increases this year; and that she wanted to hear everything that comes up in the budget process. Commissioner Cohen said he also wants to know as much about the budget process as he possibly can.

Mr. Russell also mentioned several other proposals concerning the personnel to consider during budget discussions. Vacation time employees who work for DSS and Health Department under state personnel standards receive more vacation than other county employee. County employees who don't work under state standards receive much less. There's quite a difference there, Mr. Russell told Commissioners; and also, Mr. Russell further stated, that the uneven policy makes it hard to transfer employees between departments if one is under the state standards and the other is not. Mr. Russell said, these proposals are another good reason to hire a Personnel Director.

Commissioners discussed buying an incinerator as opposed to paying another company to operate one. Commissioner Messinger said the county could operate this and make money. Commissioner Sifford said it would be foolish not to consider it. Mr. Russell said if the county bought the incinerator and paid C & H

(who presented the original proposal) to operate it, the County would break even after six to eight years and after that the County could drop the \$7.50 a ton tipping fee or at least reduce the charge. The County could make a profit of \$1.5 million a year from the steam sales and from tipping fees charged to Davie and Iredell counties. Mr. Russell said estimates show that the County would have to pay about \$10.9 million to build the incinerator. The County probably would have to sell bonds to pay for it. Commissioner Sifford said once the county paid back the bonds, the incinerator could make money to help the tax base. Commissioners agreed that before they could consider financing an incinerator, they must be sure of the technology. Commissioner Messinger suggested hiring a consultant before making a decision on the C & H offer or any other offer.

Representatives from BFI, ARS and Morrison Waste Disposal Companies attended the meeting. Mr. Morrison complained that mud around the landfill is not being cleaned up fast enough after a rain which causes damages to his garbage trucks. He spoke in favor of the county buying the incinerator.

Mrs. Ann Wilson, Finance Director presented a report showing what the County and each City in the County would pay with a \$7.50 per ton tipping fee compared to what they are paying now. Rowan County would pay \$202,424 a year tipping fee. The County already pays BFI \$382,716 a year to pick up the garbage from the dumpsters.

Commissioners agreed unanimously to go into Executive Session to hear from Gene Adams, C & H Waste Disposal.

Commissioners agreed unanimously to come out of Executive Session and back into Regular Session.

No action was taken while in Executive Session.

There being no further business, Chairman Steele adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda L. Honeycutt, Clerk

Board of County Commissioners