

The Honorable Board of Commissioners met according to adjournment, at 10 a. m. on Wednesday, March 26, 1930. All members of the Board were present. The following business was transacted by the Board during this meeting.

Ordered: That W. L. Pate be appointed to fill the vacancy on the Waccamaw Township Road Board created by Cary Chancey's failure to qualify.

K. B. Council, Chairman of Waccamaw Township Road Board, asked the Board of County Commissioners for authority to issue a note for \$300.00 in order that said Township might do some necessary road work at the present time. The Commissioners ordered that a note for Waccamaw Township in the amount of \$300.00 be issued, said note to be dated March 26, 1930, maturing four months from date at 6%.

J. A. Hooks, Chairman of Whiteville Township Road Board asked the County Commissioners to make another appointment to fill the vacancy created on said Township Road Board by D. W. Baldwin's failure to qualify. It was ordered that L. M. McLamb be appointed to serve as a member of the Whiteville Township Board.

J. P. Hammonds, Chairman of Cerro Gordo Township Road Board, asked the County Commissioners for authority to issue a note on said Township in the amount of \$500.00, this amount being needed to carry on the necessary road work through the spring months, and said amount not being available from the collection of 1929 taxes. It was ordered by the Board of Commissioners that Cerro Gordo Township be authorized to issue a note in the amount of \$500.00 in anticipation of collection of 1929 taxes, said note to be dated April 1 and maturing four months from date at 6%.

Ordered: That the 1929-30 budget for Bogue Township be increased in the amount of \$500.00, this amount being available but unappropriated previously.

Dr. J. C. Williamson came before the Board again in regard to back taxes due on his property in various townships of the County. Dr. Williamson stated that he had no knowledge of the proposition as submitted to the Board by Counsel for Royster Fertilizer Company, First National Bank of Florence, and Bank of Columbus; and furthermore, he did not consider that they had authority to speak for him or to deal with the County under present circumstances. After a discussion which lasted for some little time, a motion was offered by J. R. Blake, seconded by D. W. Merritt that the same basis of settlement which was agreed upon by the County Commissioners

and counsel for the firms named above be granted Dr. Williamson as a proposition for him to accept or reject regarding the settlement of back taxes due on said Williamson property. As was recorded in a previous order, the agreement was that the matter shall be argued before the Court and that \$12,000.00 shall be the minimum amount which the County will receive in payment of all taxes due, the matter being left to the Court to decide whether the County shall get the minimum amount of \$12,000.00, or a greater amount. The vote taken on the foregoing order was recorded as follows: For the proposition: J. R. Blake, H. G. Avant, D. W. Merritt, D. F. McGougan. Not voting: J. C. Hooks, Sr.

A committee composed of J. A. Brown and C. L. Tate presented a matter to the Board in regard to the County appropriating \$250.00 or \$300.00 to be used by the Wilmington Traffic Association in an effort to get freight rates reduced on all kinds of farm products, truck, etc., leaving Columbus County by railroad. The proposition was discussed at length and each Commissioner expressed his personal views as being heartily in sympathy with the movement; but in accordance with a desire of several members of the Board and in agreement with a recommendation made by the committee proposing the matter, no action was taken by the Board at this time, this being a matter to be disposed of at the next regular meeting of the Commissioners to be held on Monday, April 7, 1930.

Another delegation from Williams Township asked the Board of Commissioners to allow the Chain Gang to remain in Williams Township until June 1 in order that a road very much desired by citizens of said Township might be constructed. The Commissioners took no definite action regarding the matter other than to order that G. C. Hinson, Chairman of Williams Township Road Board, be instructed to determine, in company with the other two members of said Township Board, the shortest and most practicable route leading from the Stewart place to the Vann Hinson place. Said G. C. Hinson is to be further instructed to submit their decision as to a right-of-way to the Board of County Commissioners at the next regular meeting to be held on April 7, 1930.

R. B. Fesperman, representative of the Standard Oil Company in this district, submitted to the Board a contract of his company covering the bulk purchase of oils and greases used by the County. After discussing at length the matter of signing the contract, J. R. Blake offered a motion which was seconded by D. W. Merritt that the County accept and sign said contract. The motion was carried.

Walter H. Powell tendered a check in the amount of \$200.00 to the Board of Commissioners for acceptance as part payment on the Bank of

Columbus Bondsmen mortgage of R. C. Powell. The Commissioners accepted said check, and in consideration of the payment of the said \$200.00 the County Commissioners ordered that a release be granted on the one-half of a town lot which was made a part of the bond covered in said mortgage. A full description of the lot affected is given in the release which was signed by the Board of Commissioners.

It was ordered that a reward of \$50.00 be paid for the arrest and conviction of Sam H. Thompson in connection with the shooting of Deputy Sheriff Hoke B. Smith.

There being no further business for the Board to transact at this time, adjournment was voted in order until the Commissioners' regular monthly meeting to be held on Monday, April 7, 1930.

*G. C. Ratcliffe*  
Clerk

Approved:

*S. F. McManis*  
Chairman