

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners met in their said office June 19, 1967 it being third Monday.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD PRESENT:

W. O. Johnson, Chairman

T. E. Burns

J. Roland Gore

H. J. Watts

Edward W. Williamson

Emogene W. Suggs, Acting Clerk

Business Transacted:

Ordered: that Emogene W. Suggs be appointed Acting Clerk to record the minutes of this meeting.

Ordered: that Mr. Henry Wyche be reappointed for an additional term to serve on the Board of Trustees of Southeastern Community College.

Regarding a matter discussed in an earlier meeting, Mr. R. C. Soles, Jr., County Attorney pointed out that Columbus County is not authorized by state law to adopt the medical examiner system at this time. A motion was then made by Commissioner Watts, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and duly carried to retain the present coroner's system as is in Columbus County and no action be taken to have the General Statutes amended so as to permit the use of the medical examiner system in Columbus County.

Ordered: that the resignation of Dr. L. R. Warden, County Coroner, be accepted with regrets.

The Columbus County Board of Mental Health met with the Board to discuss moving the Mental Health area headquarters from New Hanover County to Robeson County. The Mental Health Board expressed approval of this move. It was ordered by Commissioner Burns and approved by the Board that Columbus County join Robeson County and others to take part in the South Central Mental Health Center in Robeson County.

Ordered: that Dr. J. R. Black and Commissioner H. J. Watts be appointed to serve on the South Central Mental Health Board in Robeson County.

A group of attorneys representing the Bar Association of Columbus County met with the Board to make suggestions regarding the remodeling and renovating of the courtrooms.

There was a general discussion regarding the following suggestions:

1. The space and facilities provided over Simmons' Drug Store is not adequate for Recorder's Court trials.
2. The Bar Association would like to meet with the architect to make suggestions as to how the new courtrooms could be made more convenient and useable.
3. All members of the Bar Association were unanimous in recommending the installation of an elevator in the courthouse during the present renovation.

A motion was made and duly seconded for the clerk to contact Mr. J. B. Lee, President of the Bar Association, and instruct him to select three members of the association to confer with the architect to consider their proposals.

A motion was made by Commissioner Watts, seconded by Commissioner Gore, and duly carried to rescind an earlier motion passed June 12, to set the Economic Development Commission tax levy at 3¢ for the proposed 1967-1968 budget estimate and the following motion was passed in lieu thereof: The tax levy for the Economic Development Commission be set at 2½¢ for the proposed 1967-1968 budget estimate and 1½¢ be added to the General County Levy with the added revenue to be derived by the General County Fund to be earmarked for installing an elevator in the Columbus County Courthouse at such time as appropriate arrangements for this installation of an elevator can be made without unduly interfering with the operations of court and other courthouse facilities. Provided further, that before any contract is signed or expenditure is made toward unstalling of a courthouse elevator this Board shall review the proposed cost and at that time finally approve said expenditure. The County Building Supt. is authorized to make appropriate inquiries and cost estimates in connection with the installation of a courthouse elevator.

Mrs. Betty S. Williamson was interviewed and questioned as to her qualifications concerning the position of County Accountant and Clerk to the Board. After the interview, a motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Gore and unanimously carried to appoint Mrs. Williamson to the position of County Accountant at a salary of \$475 per month, effective this day.

Ordered: that Betty S. Williamson be appointed to serve as Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners.

~~Ordered: that Mazzalee T. Sanderford~~

Mr. Stephen Shaw came before the Board to discuss the proposed 1967-1968 budget estimate and was instructed to make some salary changes.

N. C. State Highway "Encroachment Forms" for the Proposed Sanitary Sewer Extension on U.S. 74 West were signed and forwarded to the District Engineer.

The budget estimate for the fiscal year 1967-1968, with revisions as directed by the Board, was submitted by Stephen J. Shaw, representative of S. Preston Douglas & Associates, of Lumberton, who assisted in preparing the budget estimate. It was ordered that the budget estimate be tentatively approved with the tax rate of \$1.49 per \$100.00 valuation. The Board authorized the clerk to put a notice in the local paper on Thursday, June 22, 1967 stating that the budget estimate for 1967-1968 has been presented to the County Commissioners and a copy of same is on file in the office of the clerk for public inspection.

Upon motion the meeting adjourned until 10 a.m., July 3, 1967.

APPROVED:

*Emogene W. Suggs*  
Emogene W. Suggs, Acting Clerk

*W. O. Johnson*  
W. O. Johnson, Chairman