

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners met in their said office at 10:00 a.m., February 19, 1973, it being third Monday.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD PRESENT:

E. W. Williamson, Chairman

Donald Currie

T. E. Burns

W. B. Buffkin

Mayo Brown

Emogene W. Suggs, Clerk

The meeting was called to order and the invocation was given by the Reverend Bobby Phillips, Missionary Alliance Church, Whiteville, N. C.

The following business was transacted:

Ordered: that Geraldine Blackburn be hired as a temporary clerk in the County Accountant's Office at the same rate of pay as other clerks in the Courthouse receive.

Ordered: that Commissioner Brown be designated to cash rent the tobacco allotment for the County and sign the necessary papers to release the contract to the lessee.

Ordered: that Mr. Raper, Extension Chairman, be allowed to hire two Agriculture Technicians under a federal program at no cost to the County until 1975, at which time it will be determined if these jobs are desirable for the County to continue,

Ordered: that a letter be written to the members of the Simmons Bay Creek Watershed Committee in reference to the letter from the Army Corp of Engineers requesting certain work to be done on said project. The Committee agreed at the time the Project was completed that they would maintain the Watershed.

The following resolution was presented to the Board of Commissioners by Commissioner Burns and was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners recognizes the need for more rural medical doctors; and

WHEREAS, the Board is pleased to endorse the efforts of the Black River Health Services, Inc., in securing a physician to practise medicine in the Town of Atkinson in pender County; and

WHEREAS, the Board feels that a physician in that area would contribute greatly toward relieving the problem of inadequate medical care for the people in the north-east section of Columbus County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Columbus County Board of Commissioners pledge their support to this worthy cause.

ROAD PETITION: LEES TOWNSHIP - This road is located between Highway #130 and S.R.#1958. It is .3 miles in length and has 2 occupied homes located on it.

Ordered: that the following tax release be made upon the recommendation of the Tax Supervisor: that the taxes listed in the name of Clara Horne, Ranson Township, be cancelled in the amount of \$44.73 due to a clerical error.

Ordered: that Mr. Horace Shaw's salary be continued through February.

Ordered: that a decision on the Airport's Proposed Budget be tabled until a later meeting.

Mr. George Harriss appeared before the Board and expressed an interest in purchasing some old jail cells (Iron Bars) from the old jail building to use in a restaurant in Wilmington. The Board will look into the possibility of this request and notify Mr. Harriss at a later time.

At the request of the Board, Representative R. C. Soles, Jr. and Senator Arthur Williamson met with the Board to discuss a Rural Police System for Columbus County and update the Board on other matters of interest to the County. After the discussion Representative Soles and Senator Williamson asked the Board to express their desires in writing to them so a bill could be drawn to have legislation introduced to implement a Rural Police System in Columbus County if this is in fact their desire. ~~Senator Williamson and Representative Soles~~ Senator Williamson and Representative Soles stated there seemed to be a consensus among the citizens of the County to have a Rural Police System in order to upgrade the police service in the County. The Board informed Soles and Williamson that they would make a decision in the very near future.

Upon motion the meeting recessed until 6:30 p.m., Monday, February 26, 1973.

*Emogene M. Suggs*  
Clerk

APPROVED:

*Edward W. Dean*  
Chairman