

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners met in their said office at 8:00 P.M. June 12, 1973 in a called meeting to continue work on the Budget.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD PRESENT:

Edward W. Williamson, Chairman

Donald P. Currie

T. E. Burns

Mayo Brown

W. B. Buffkin

Emogene W. Suggs, Clerk

The meeting was called to order and the Chairman announced the purpose of the meeting was to continue work in preparing the budget estimate.

The Sheriff, A. L. Duke, came to discuss the budget for the Sheriff's Department for the year 1973-74. He stated he would like to withdraw his budget request and let the Board decide on his budget. He further stated that he thought the Board would be fair and just and he would leave his budget in the hands of the Board. He suggested that he thought to take a pro rata share of his present operating budget as a basis for preparing for the first three months of the next year would be a good guideline to follow. After a discussion of the budget, a motion was made by Commissioner Currie, seconded by Commissioner Brown and unanimously passed that the Board not fund the Budget request of the Public Safety Commission and to continue law enforcement through the Sheriff's Department.

The County Attorney stated that while he wished it otherwise, the law required that the County Public Safety Commission "Rural Police Force" be funded by the County Commissioners. He stated that this was not his opinion only, but also the State Attorney General's Office's opinion and that of a renowned state legal firm from which he requested an opinion. Both opinions were read to the Board. Whereupon, motion was made by Commissioner Buffkin, seconded by Commissioner Brown, and unanimously carried that the action by the Board not fund the County Public Safety Commission "Rural Police Force" be rescinded and, further, that the people of Columbus County join with the Commissioners in requesting the legislators enact legislation to allow the citizens to vote on questions of whether or not they should have a County Public Safety Commission "Rural Police Force" in the future.

Upon motion the meeting adjourned until Thursday, June 14, at 6:30PM.

APPROVED:

Emogene W. Suggs
Clerk

Edward W. Williamson
Chairman