

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners met in their said office at 10:00 a.m., January 3, 1977, it being first Monday.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD PRESENT:

C. Waldo Marlowe, Chairman

Junior W. Dew, Vice-Chairman

Edward W. Williamson

L. A. Hinson

David McPherson

James E. Hill, Jr., Attorney

Emogene W. Suggs, Clerk

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman and the invocation was given by The Reverend Edd Moore, Pastor, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Whiteville, N. C.

The following business was transacted:

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and passed to approve the minutes of the December 20th meeting as recorded.

The Clerk informed Commissioners Marlowe and Williamson that former Commissioners Brown and Currie had given their approval of the minutes of the meeting of December 6, 1976 up until noon as recorded in the minute book. Commissioners Marlowe and Williamson approved same.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner McPherson to approve the following tax releases as recommended by the Tax Supervisor:

Ordered: that the taxes listed in the name of Thomas J. Fisher, Whiteville Township, be released on the valuation of \$1,940.00 for the years 1967 through 1972; Valuation of \$2,050.00 for the year 1973, and \$4,090.00 for 1974 through 1976 due to double listing.

Ordered: that the 1976 taxes listed in the name of Leba Singletary, Bug Hill Township, be released on the valuation of \$3,940.00 due to double listing.

Ordered: that a refund be given to A. P. Rogers, Sr. Estate in the amount of \$406.92, South Williams Township, for 1976 taxes due to double listing.

Ordered: that a refund be given to C. C. Leggette, South Williams Township, in the amount of \$201.72 for 1976 taxes double listed. Property also listed and taxes paid by Little Mint.

Ordered: that the taxes be released on property listed to Arthur F. & Eva Creech Eason on the valuation of \$5,000 for 1976, Welches Creek Township, due to error in listing for Senior Citizens Exemption.

A request was made by Rudolph Suggs that a trash container be placed in the County in the area near the Town of Brunswick as it is several miles to the nearest container for citizens of this area to haul trash.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed that a trash container be placed in the Hickory Hill Barbecue area (Highway 130) as soon as a container is available, and further, that a member of the Board of Commissioners contact Chief Barker and request a stake out by the County Police to find out who is setting fires in

in the containers and try to stop destruction of county property in this way.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson that the vacancy at the County Landfill be filled by advertising for applications for an equipment operator at a beginning salary of \$646.00 per month. The motion was passed.

Mr. Charlie Love, Whiteville ABC Board Chairman, presented a resolution to the Board that had been adopted by the Whiteville ABC Board and asked that the Commissioners support the resolution and their efforts to defeat proposed legislation to be introduced in the upcoming Legislature that would take more ABC Funds from the County. Their request would oppose any legislation that would change the present Act or change the formula for allocation and distribution of ABC revenues. The following resolution was adopted by the Board upon motion by Commissioner McPherson and seconded by Commissioner Williamson:

WHEREAS, the Commissioners in and for the County of Columbus, State of North Carolina, acknowledged that the Whiteville ABC Board and other municipal ABC Boards for the County of Columbus were created and exist authority of House Bill No. 764 enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina on the 19th day of May, 1976; and

WHEREAS, that said enactment of legislation called for the distribution of revenue from the sale of alcoholic beverages pursuant to the Statute and more specifically set out as not less than five (5%) percent or more than ten (10%) percent of the gross revenues of the sale of the said alcoholic beverages were to be distributed to the general funds of municipalities to be used for law enforcement purposes, and five (5%) percent of the net profits, as determined quarterly, were to be distributed to the general funds of municipalities for the use of the fire department; and that fifty (50%) percent of the net profits of the general funds of the municipalities were to be expended for any public purpose for which taxed or non-taxed revenues were to be expended and forty-five (45%) percent of the profits were to be disbursed to the general funds of the County to be allotted in equal parts to the Board of Education of any school unit in which an ABC store is located; and

WHEREAS, the plan and implementation of the same has worked well in the County of Columbus and that certain revenues have in the past been given by the ABC Board to the general funds of the County of Columbus; and

WHEREAS, on the 28th day of December, 1976, the Whiteville ABC Board at its regular meeting adopted a resolution which in part set out that, upon information and belief, the Advisory Council on Alcoholism in the division of mental health services of the State of North Carolina, Department of Human Resources, has proposed legislation that would require the expenditure of nickel (.05) per bottle of the funds according to the regulations established by the State of North Carolina, Department of Human Resources, extensive reporting concerning the use of such funds and a revision of non use funds to the Department of Human Resources; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Council on Alcoholism of the Department of Human Resources has further recommended proposed legislation to extend the seven (7%) percent mandatory expenditure requirement of the North Carolina General Statutes 18A-17(14) to all Boards without regard to

local acts which impose different requirements; and

WHEREAS, the ABC Boards of the County of Columbus estimate a total loss of revenue as a result of the proposed legislation in the amount of \$35,233.30 which is greatly needed by the municipal and county governments for the continuation of the programs now in progress or shortly to be implemented.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County Commissioners in and for the County of Columbus, State of North Carolina, as the duly elected officials to represent all the citizens of Columbus County, respectfully request that each of the duly elected officials of the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and in particular the elected individuals who represent Columbus County, carefully consider the legislation proposed by the Advisory Council of Alcoholism Division of Mental Health Services, Department of Human Resources;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Commissioners of the County of Columbus, after carefully reflecting upon the ramifications of the proposed legislation, fail to understand any merits of the said legislation and are in vigorous opposition to the adoption of any plan which would change the allocation and distribution of the funds as now set forth in the General Statutes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the foregoing Resolution be sent to The Honorable R. C. Soles, Jr., Tabor City, North Carolina; The Honorable O. Richard Wright, Jr., Tabor City, North Carolina; The Honorable Edd Nye, Elizabethtown, North Carolina; and Mr. Ron Taylor, Elizabethtown, North Carolina.

Adopted this the 3rd day of January, 1977.

COLUMBUS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

/s/ C. W. Marlowe, Chairman

Williamson

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner / / to advertise the dwelling house (FHA) which the County owns on West Smith Street to be sold at public auction on February 14th at 12:00 Noon. No bids were received from the advertisement to sell the house by sealed bids. The motion was carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Dew, and unanimously passed to authorize the Chairman to sign Change Order #G-2 which is an increase of \$6,737.50 in the General Contract of the Columbus County Hospital.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Dew to give Mrs. Mazie Register \$50.00 from the Out-Door-Poor Fund.

The matter of the maintenance of the Simmons Bay Flood Control Canal was discussed by the Board from information received from the Army Corp of Engineers that the Project was not being properly maintained. The Board designated Commissioner Marlowe to contact Extension Chairman McCullen and have him refer the information to the Committee who made the agreement with the County to maintain the canal and instruct them to make the necessary improvements.

Representative Richard Wright met with the Board to express a desire to work with the County Commissioners while in Raleigh as Representative from Columbus County. He briefed them on matters he proposed to introduce in the House when he returns to Raleigh that would

directly concern Columbus County and asked for their support in the following matters:

1. He proposes to change the language of the 1973 House Bill which relates to the number of special deputies, deputies and county police that can be hired by the respective agencies and allow the County Commissioners to regulate the number that may be hired.

2. He proposes to give the citizens of Columbus County the opportunity to vote on the issue of whether they want a dual law enforcement system.

3. He proposes to give the citizens of the Whiteville School District the right to elect the members of the Whiteville School Unit's Board of Education and reduce the number that serve on the Board to five. Presently there are nine appointed members.

He stated that he hoped that the new administration would allow the County Commissioners to have more authority in making decisions concerning roads within their respective County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and carried to endorse the above proposals and the Clerk was instructed to send a copy of this action to the Senator from this District and ask his cooperation in getting these proposals through the Senate.

*See minutes  
of 1-17-77*

The Chairman was authorized to sign an agreement to provide financial assistance to the Fair Bluff Fire Department in their efforts to secure a loan from FHA upon approval by the Fire Commission. The agreement is to be drawn by the Attorney for the Town of Fair Bluff in a manner consistent with agreements with other fire departments in the County. This authorization was given upon motion by Commissioner Williamson and seconded by Commissioner Hinson.

*See minutes  
of April 4-77*

Upon motion the meeting recessed until January 4th at 7:00 p.m. to meet with the Study Group concerning the feasibility of hiring a county manager for Columbus County. The purpose of the meeting is to inform the Group of the job they have been selected to do and the Group will select officers and make plans to proceed with their task.

APPROVED:

Emogene M. Suggs Clerk

Waldo Marlowe Chairman