

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners met in their said office at 10:00 a.m., March 21, 1977, it being third Monday.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD PRESENT:

C. Waldo Marlowe, Chairman

Junior W. Dew, Vice-Chairman

Edward W. Williamson

L. A. Hinson

David L. 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 Paul Boone, Pastor, Whiteville Methodist Church.

The minutes of the March 7th meeting were approved upon motion by Commissioner McPherson and seconded by Commissioner Hinson.

There was a continued discussion by the Board, with the Chairman of the Planning Board and Representatives from the Council of Governments, concerning the Land Use Plan for Columbus County. The Plan has been completed and the required number of public hearings have been held.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed to adopt the Land Use Plan but IF and WHEN a zoning ordinance is adopted that no limit be placed on the number of lots a landowner may give to his family. It was noted at the discussion that the Land Use Plan is not a legal document to regulate land use but a plan to use as a guide for zoning.

Mrs. Bible, Library Director, reported to the Board that she had further investigated the microfilming of the NEWS REPORTER as a permant historical record. A letter was presented to tha Board verifying that James C. High, Publisher, would participate in one-third of the cost of microfilming the NEWS REPORTER from 1050 through 1976 and continue the project on an annual basis of one-half the cost as long as the paper is published in its present form - Twice weekly. An additional letter from Horace Carter, Publisher of the TABOR CITY TRIBUNE, was also presented stating he did not wish to participate in the project in include the TABOR CITY TRIBUNE but had no objections to the County particiapting in the microfilming of other County papers.

The estimated total cost through 1976 papers would be about \$4,700. MS. Bible requested that the Board appropriate 1/3 of this cost at this time so that the project could be advertised during this fiscal year. She further stated that she planned to apply for a project grant under CETA Title VI to have the papers indexed which would be useless unless the microfilming could be done at this time.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and approved to appropriate 1/3 of the cost of the microfilming of the NEWS REPORTER.

MS. Bible was accompanied by Linda Myers, Social Worker for the Blind, who works with visually impaired childred in the County. Ms. Myers stated that the Division of Services for the Blind would supply \$1,500 to purchase supplies for these children if the County would match it on a 25/75% basis. A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson

and approved to appropriate \$500 for matching funds.

Sheriff Coleman met with the Board to request two additional deputies be added to his Department. He stated that the working hours for his Department were excessive and the number of papers were increasing. He also stated that his present Deputies could not take vacation time or compensatory time for overtime.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson to hire two deputies. A vote was taken and recorded as follows: In favor of hiring two additional deputies were commissioners Hinson and Williamson. Voting against hiring two additional deputies were Commissioners McPherson, Dew and Marlowe.

A motion was made later by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Dew and passed to allow the Sheriff to deputize one additional person. As a matter of clarification if the Sheriff chooses to deputize the CETA worker who now works under his supervision, he may not replace the CETA slot as in an earlier meeting this guideline has been established but could change if more funds become available from the Office of Manpower & Training.

In response to a request from B. A. Mills, DOT District Engineer, the following resolution was passed upon motion by Commissioner Hinson and seconded by Commissioner Dew:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County that the Board hereby approves the paving of the driveway at the Hallsboro Fire Department by the Department of Transportation.

A further motion was made by Commissioner Williamson and seconded by Commissioner Hinson as follows: BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County that the Board hereby approves the paving of the driveway at the Buckhead Fire Department by the Department of Transportation.

The State Department of Administration has developed policy changes concerning plans for local competitive service classes. It was established by the Personnel Commission that local jurisdictions, i.e. County Commissioners, may establish and administer compensation plans which provide a level of pay based upon financial ability, fiscal and local prevailing rates but must meet the approval of the State Personnel Commission. Joanne Vereen and Marion Duncan, representing the Health Dept. and Social Services, requested that the Board adopt the Plan used by the State Personnel Office in the present fiscal year, and operate basically as we have in the past. Entrance rates have been at the minimum of the scale and promotions have been at the discretion of the Director of the respective Departments with State and local approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and approved to adopt the State Personnel Salary Scale which we are now using, adding percentages of increase as approved by the Commissioners. A copy of this action is to be sent to the State Dept. of Administration for their consideration and approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed to approve the budget amendment request from the Board of Education to allow the expenditure of funds received from insurance proceeds for Guideway School in the amount of \$259,255.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and approved to request Brooks Stanley, Tax Supervisor, to obtain a list of companies in the State who are qualified to contract to do the octennial appraisal for the County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and approved that the following tax release be made upon the recommendation of the Tax Supvr.:

Ordered: that a refund be made to Carl Butler, P. O. Box 522, Whiteville, N. C., Whiteville Township in the amount of \$61.44 due to house burning valued at \$5,120.

At 12:00 noon the Board adjourned to the site of the dwelling on West Smith Street, (FHA House) which had been advertised for sale at public auction. There were no bids for the property. The house had previously been advertised for sealed bids but none were received. A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed to contract with Mrs. Kate Williamson to move the house from the lot and leave the lot clean of debris at no cost for the house. The house must be moved within 90 days if Mrs. Williamson accepts the offer.

The County Attorney reported to the Board that Columbus County could not participate in bids for police cars through State contract this fiscal year as the time had passed to receive request. This information was in reference to the request from the Public Safety Commission to be allowed to advertise for eight new autos for 1977-78. There was also a request from the Sheriff's Department for the purchase of four new autos in the upcoming budget. No further action was taken at this time.

Charles McCormick, who owns a business in Chadbourn, met with the Board asking clarification on a matter concerning zoning in the College area. He plans to move his business from the Town of Chadbourn to property outside the incorporated area and expand the existing building. At the time of zoning in that area the existing building was used for commercial purposes and has not ceased to be used for commercial purposes according to Mr. McCormick. Brooks Stanley, who served as zoning officer in the past advised the Board that if the property had not ceased to be used as commercial property since the time of zoning it can continue to be used for that purpose. The County Attorney concurred.

Mrs. Susan Woods, along with representatives of RSVP, met with the Board to ask for consideration in the uncoming budget in the amount of \$6,000 to be used as matching funds to obtain federal funds to continue the Retired Senior Volunteer Programs. The Board will consider this request when reviewing the total budget request.

A CETA Title VI project was presented to the Board to review which had been submitted by Sencland Community Action, Inc. to the Office of Manpower & Training. Also three proposal summaries to be sponsored by The Dept. of Labor, Department of Cultural Resources and the North Carolina Council on the Status of Women. The Board directed Chairman Marlowe to review the request on behalf of the Board.

The following Resolution was unanimously adopted upon motion by Commissioner Williamson and seconded by Commissioner McPherson:

WHEREAS, the Commissioners in and for the County of Columbus, State of North Carolina, approximately three years began employing under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA), Title II and Title VI, United States Department of Labor, and have these employees extensively throughout the three year period, and have promoted many of the said employees to permanent positions; and

WHEREAS, at the present time, there are One Hundred Eighty-Three (183) CETA employees utilized by fourteen agencies and eight municipalities within the County of Columbus, and

WHEREAS, the latest information has caused notice to be sent to each of the employees that their employment will be terminated effective no later than 30 September, 1977; and

WHEREAS, the County of Columbus, State of North Carolina, has an unemployment rate at the present time of approximately 8.1 percent and that many of the CETA employees are unskilled or semiskilled employees; and

WHEREAS, many of the programs which have been instituted throughout the years will now be terminated because of the change of the guidelines and many of the agencies which depend upon the CETA employees so desperately will now suffer tremendously the effects of the loss of the CETA employees on such short notice;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commissioners of the County of Columbus, State of North Carolina, as duly elected officers to represent all of the citizens of the County of Columbus, respectfully request that the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, and the National Association of Counties, and the Honorable O. Richard Wright, Jr., Tabor City, North Carolina; and The Honorable Ron Taylor, Elizabethtown, North Carolina; and The Honorable Edd Nye, Elizabethtown, North Carolina; and The Honorable R. C. Soles, Jr., Tabor City, North Carolina and The Honorable Charlie Rose, Fayetteville, North Carolina; and The Honorable Jessie Helms, Raleigh, North Carolina; and The Honorable Robert Morgan, Lillington, North Carolina; do all within their power which they may have to extend this program under the now existing guidelines because the same is so vitally needed by not only this County, but all counties throughout the nation which have become to depend so entirely upon the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act employees.

COLUMBUS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By /s/ C. W. Marlowe
C. W. Marlowe, Chairman

The Tax Collector's Report for the month of February was presented to the Board for review.

A letter of resignation was presented to the Board from Bill Russ, Extension Service, who stated he was resigning to move nearer to Raleigh to work and further his education at State University.

Attorney Hill was instructed to advertise a cabinet- map file- which was discarded by the Register of Deeds Office, to be sold by sealed bids.

Mr. Donnie Graham met with the Board to ask if they had a reply to the questions presented by him to the Board at the March 7th meeting which were to be referred to Dr. Sarah Morrow, Secy., Department of Human Resources to be answered. Commissioner Hinson stated that he

had information in reply to Mr. Graham's request. He read a prepared statement which gave a review of his encounter in his investigation of mental health services for Columbus County from the time he was appointed to the Area Mental Health Board but did not respond to the questions referred to by Mr. Graham.

There was further discussion related to mental health and the question arose concerning inviting Dr. Morrow to visit Columbus County and meet with the Board. Chairman Marlowe stated that he felt this should be an action by the Board and while he serves as Chairman issues of County business will be treated in a business-like manner.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and approved that the Board invite Dr. Morrow to come to the County at her convenience, to discuss matters related to mental health services in the County. It was further ordered that the Clerk write Dr. Morrow to arrange the meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Dew and approved to authorize the Chairman to sign the change order for the Hospital in the amount of \$6,210.93 for the Electrical Contract.

Upon motion the meeting adjourned until April 5, 1977, at 10:00 a.m.

APPROVED:

Emogene N. Luggs
Clerk

Waldo Marlowe
Chairman