

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners met in their said office at 10:00 a.m., October 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 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 Commissioner McPherson.

The following business was transacted:

The minutes of the September 19th meeting were approved as recorded upon motion by Commissioner McPherson and seconded by Commissioner Hinson.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed authorizing the Chairman to sign a "Letter of Intent" to participate in a state-wide Community Based Alternative Program for Juvenile status offenders, which will require a 20% local match of monies or in-kind participation to be determined by the Department of Human Resources the actual amount of monies to be received under this program.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and approved that the Attorney draw a plan, to be approved by the Board, to allot funds to the various volunteer fire and rescue units in the County. Mr. Jerry Watts, Tabor City Fire Chief, requested funds for Tabor City Fire Dept., which he stated made calls outside the town limits, but has not received County funds to this date. The Board will make a decision on his request subject to the guidelines drawn by the Attorney and approved by the Board but gave favorable support to Mr. Watts' request.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and passed to appoint Clarence Brown and Jim Bellamy to the Juvenile Study Task Force to replace Peggy Willis and Pete Coletti who have moved from this area.

Johnson Clewis met with the Board to discuss repairing and painting the woodwork on the outside of the Courthouse. Advertisements have been made to receive bids for the above mentioned work on July 5, 1977 and September 19, 1977 with no qualified bids being received from either advertisement. A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed instructing the Attorney to draw a Contract to be signed by both Mr. Clewis and the County setting out the conditions under which both parties will accept the job to be done. Mr. Clewis stated that C and C Painters will repair the woodwork and paint the woodwork at a rate of \$20.00 per hour for two workers. He will also furnish the necessary tools to do the work and the County will purchase the paint.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed to allow Dempsey Herring to hire a full time secretary. It is further ordered that he

be allowed to amend his budget to pay his salary out of federal matching funds received as a planning grant, thus leaving county funds available to hire a secretary.

Mr. Herring also informed the Board that Sylvia Thompson, Recreation Board Member, has moved from the County and asked that she be replaced. The Board requested a letter of resignation from Mrs. Thompson before appointing a replacement.

Commissioner McPherson made a statement concerning the priority rating given to the Senic River Project (Waccamaw River) in the September 19th meeting which was approved by the Board.

Commissioner McPherson stated that due to a lack of information/<sup>at that time</sup> he wishes to reconsider the rating and ask for input from the public.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Dew and approved that a public hearing be held on October 21, 1977, at 7:30 p.m., in the Old Dock School to give the public an opportunity to be heard.

Ms. Amanda Bible, Library Director, requested the Board to appropriate \$2,500.00 to cover one-half the cost of preliminary architectural plans necessary to make grant application for funds to expand the library facilities of the merged Library. A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and approved to appropriate the request from Surplus.

Members of the Columbus County Arts Council, with E. C. Sanders as spokesman, met with the Board to request that they (The Council) be designated the local distributing agency for the funds designated to Columbus County under the "Grassroots Arts Program". As the Board had already discussed the matter with Edd Miller, Oritoria Society, they told the delegation they would confer with Mr. Miller and if agreeable with him, they would grant the request to designate the County Arts Council as the local distributing agency.

There was further discussion regarding the purchase of a truck for the Landfill. Both Commissioners Dew and McPherson had obtained information on Mack and White Trucks which was presented to the Board.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Dew to accept the bid from Carolina Waste Equipment to purchase a Crane Carrier Truck with a LoDal Front Loader as proposed in Alternate No. II of the bids opened on September 19th. The total purchase price, including taxes, is \$63,830.00/<sup>and the truck is</sup> to be available to install the loader before the end of December 1977. The motion was passed.

A further motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed to readvertise for 50 containers without lids and with only A-frame hookup.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and passed to adopt the MESSAGE PARLOR ORDINANCE to become effective on October 17, 1977. (Recorded in Ordinance Book No. I, Page No. 9 through Page No. 15.)

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and passed to allow the Tax Collector to hire a temporary clerk through December 1977.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and passed to appoint Asa Reeves to continue to serve on the Jury Commission for another term.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed to allow the persons who purchased the house and garage on North Thompson Street additional time to remove the buildings from the County's lot. The time allowed is through January 31, 1978.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed to allow the Town Council of Brunswick to make a decision concerning retaining or terminating Lee Register, CETA employee, based on data they presented to the Board and the regulations of the Office of Community Employment.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed to authorize the Chairman to sign the Change Order (No. 4, General Contract) for the hospital building.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and approved to designate Bobbie DeWitt as Director of the CETA Programs - Title II and Title VI-, and that the Chairman be authorized to sign the necessary Contracts to continue the Programs.

Commissioner McPherson stated that as a result of the article in THE NEWS REPORTER on double office holding by the Board, he is requesting the County Attorney to consult with the Office of the Attorney General and the Institute of Government to determine the status of the Board and if adjustments need to be made, that the Board move in the direction of compliance with the law. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dew and passed. It was further ordered that Commissioner Williamson assist the Attorney.

The following Tax Releases were made upon motion by Commissioner Williamson and seconded by Commissioner McPherson:

Ordered: that the 1974 taxes listed in the name of Shep Moore, Jr., Welches Creek Township, be cancelled on the valuation of \$6,430. due to double listing. Property was listed to U. S. Moore also.

Ordered: that the 1970 through 1977 taxes listed in the name of Albert Elton Richardson, Lees Township, be cancelled due to double listing. Property was also listed to Robert Hilbourn.

#### RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS CONTRACT

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners proposes to enter into an Annual Contributions Contract with the United States of America, Department of Housing and Urban Development.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY PHA as follows:

Section 1. The Contract, numbered Contract No. 3242-E, is hereby approved and accepted both as to form and substance and the Project Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to execute said Contract in triplicate on behalf of Columbus County, and the Clerk

to the Board of County Commissioners is hereby authorized and directed to impress and attest the official seal of the County on each such counterpart and to forward said executed counterparts to the Government together with such other documents evidencing the approval and authorizing the execution thereof as may be required by the Government.

Section 2. The Project Administrator is hereby authorized to file with the Government from time to time, as monies are required, requisitions together with the necessary supporting document, for payment under the Contract.

Section 3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

The above Resolution was passed upon motion by Commissioner Williamson and seconded by Commissioner Hinson.

Upon the suggestion of the Attorney a motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and approved that the Board adjourn into executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

After a short session the Board reconvened in regular session.

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

RESOLUTION DECLARING "ROBERT A. HODGES DAY" THROUGHOUT COLUMBUS COUNTY

WHEREAS, Robert A. Hodges, often known to most of the citizens of Columbus County as "BOB HODGES" or "MR. MUSIC", has dedicated more than forty years of his life to contributing to the cultural development of thousands of children as band master of the Columbus County School System; and

WHEREAS, Robert A. Hodges often wore out an automobile each year on the roads of Columbus County in order to provide for the cultural development of the citizens of Columbus County; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Columbus County wish to pay proper tribute to this esteemed musician by having a concert in his honor on October 23, 1977, at Legion Field, Whiteville, North Carolina, to be coordinated by Mr. Campbell Price; and

WHEREAS, two hundred student musicians from four Columbus County Schools, to wit: Acme-Delco, Hallsboro, Tabor City and West Columbus, plan to attend and participate in the concert in honor of Robert A. Hodges on the said date and at the said location; and

WHEREAS, at the concert, the Columbus County Board of Education will acclaim Robert A. Hodges as the "COLUMBUS COUNTY BAND DIRECTOR EMERITUS"; and

WHEREAS, October 23, 1977, will be the day for the initiation of a drive for the contributions to the "BOB HODEGS SCHOLARSHIP FUND" to aid students graduating from Columbus County School System in the furtherance of their formal education, and in the spirit of the man, the said scholarship will not be restricted to students only in pursuit of music.

NOW, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina, declare October 23, 1977, as "ROBERT A. HODGES' DAY" throughout all of Columbus County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County,

North Carolina, do hereby declare Robert A. Hodges a gentleman above all, as well as, a man whose life is a living inspiration to all who have known him either in his professional capacity or personally.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all citizens of Columbus County, North Carolina are hereby invited to attend a concert to be given on October 23, 1977, at Legion Field in tribute to ROBERT A. HODGES, and the said citizens are further requested to contribute to the establishment of a ROBERT A. HODGES SCHOLARSHIP FUND to aid deserving students of Columbus County, North Carolina.

This the 3rd day of October, 1977

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: /s/ C. Waldo Marlowe, Chairman

Attested:

/s/ Emogene W. Suggs, Clerk

The following tax release was made upon motion by Commissioner Williamson and seconded by Commissioner McPherson:

Ordered: that a refund be given to Home Federal Savings & Loan Association, Lumberton, N. C. for 1977 taxes paid in the name of James Howard Nobles in the amount of \$31.84 due to paying the wrong persons taxes. Receipt has been returned to the Tax Collector's Office, Chadbourn Township, #1379.

Other items of discussion were:

The following letter was presented to the Board from Columbus County Sheriff's Deputies, Whiteville, N. C.

"Gentlemen:

This is to advise you that the Deputies of the Sheriff's Department recommend Stuart Sasser for the position of Sheriff. Any consideration you may give us for this request will be greatly appreciated by each one of us.

Sincerely,

/s/ Elizabeth Strickland

/s/ James Howard Turbeville

/s/ James H. Smith, Jr.

/s/ W. B. Herring

/s/ J. R. Hunt

/s/ D. K. Bellamy "

This request was made due to the death of John Coleman, Sheriff of Columbus County, on this date. No action was taken by the Board at this time.

Mr. Omega Simmons came to ask that SR#1925 be shrubbed and stated that the road also needed widening. The Board told him they would refer his request to the Department of Transportation for consideration.

The County Attorney informed the Board on matters that had been referred to him at earlier meetings as follows:

The Board cannot sign for a loan for privately owned property. This is in reference to the request from citizens in the Riegelwood area who are interested in building a structure to be used as a library.

The Board cannot donate from the General Fund to the Red Cross or the Good Shepherd Home. The Good Shepherd Home can apply for funds from ABC revenue which has been remitted to the State. The Board directed the Attorney to make this information available to the Home.

There were two request to the Board asking that they be given title to the present Library building; one from the Columbus County Board of Education and one from the County Board of Elections. No action was taken on this matter as the building is not available to be given to any agency.

The Board was asked to clarify the position of William McArthur who is an electrical inspector in the County. The Board stated that his position is unchanged and that he is to serve the same area as originally designated. Otto Nance is to be an at large inspector to serve anywhere in the County.

Upon motion the meeting recessed until Wednesday, October 5, 1977, at 5:00 p.m., to continue unfinished business.

APPROVED:

Emogene M. Suggs Clerk

Waldo Westmore Chairman