The Honorable Board of County Commissioners met in their said office at 10:00 a.m, July 17, 1978, 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 (Absent)

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:

Hugh Clark met with the Board to request additional office space as he has been alloted a new position. The Board told Mr. Clark that they would meet with him after the meeting adjourned to see if they could find space for use by FmHA.

The Tax Collector's report for the year was reviewed by the Board. The collection rate, unofficially, is 93.5%. A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed that the report be accepted.

There was a discussion concerning the continuation of hiring a delinquent tax collector. It was determined that the cost of collections for the first six months was 18.7% The Board appointed the Chairman to discuss the matter with the present delinquent collector, Carson Cox, before a decision is made.

A report was submitted to the Board on the use of the WATS line at the law enforcement center. A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed that a letter of request be sent to the Public Safety Commission Chairman and the Acting Chief of Police asking that they meet with the Board on August 7th to discuss the merits of continuing the WATTS line as it was installed on a trial basis.

A letter was read from SENCland Community Action requesting larger and better facilities for SENCland. A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Dew and passed to table the request at this time.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and approved that Edward W. Williamson be the voting delegate to the Annual Commissioners Convention in Asheville in August.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed to approve the budget for Specialized Foster Care which is a program for status offenders. The amount of the budget is \$14,200 to be funded by the State.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and passed to give Mattie Garrell a check from the ODP Fund for \$50.00.

A copy of HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT for Columbus County was presented to the Board by Commissioner McPherson. The document was prepared by COG. A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed that the County continue to participate in the Community Development and Housing Rehabilitation programs to help improve housing conditions in Columbus County.

A delegation of approximately 30 persons from a wide area of the County met with the Board to ask their support in maintaining Oak Forest School Building as a Headstart Center as it is presently being used to accommodate about 70 preschool children and provide jobs for people in the Nakina area. The information from the delegation was that an industry would locate there in the near future.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and approved that the Clerk write a letter to the Board of Education expressing concern and asking that they retain the building for its present use.

A group of about 20 hunting club members met with the Board to complain about the increased cost of leasing property from Georgia-Pacific Corp. to be used for hunting game. (Deer & Bear). They requested that the Board reclassify the property as commercial property for tax purposes.

After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Dew and passed that the Clerk contact the proper Georgia-Pacific official and request that a joint meeting be held with the hunters, County Commissioners and G-P Representatives to discuss the problem. A member of the G-P Corp., Randy Dye, was present at this meeting and stated that he would discuss the matter with Mr. Robert Nelson when he returns to Columbus County but a letter of confirmation is to be sent also.

Upon motion the meeting adjourned until August 7, 1978, at 10:00 a.m.

APPROVED:

Eurogene W Soggi

Waldo Marlows