

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners met in their said office at 10:00 a.m., February 5, 1979, 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 The Reverend John F. Walkup, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Whiteville.

The following business was transacted:

The minutes of the January 15th and 16th were approved as recorded upon motion by Commissioner McPherson and seconded by Commissioner Dew.

Social Services Director, Jo Anne Vereen, informed the Board that there were additional State funds available to Columbus County for expanded services in certain categories, with the County furnishing 25% matching funds.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed to accept the amount of funds for chore services that the Department can process without an increase in the number of employees. Mrs. Vereen felt they could add approximately 25 slots which would cost the County \$5,500.00 in County funds to match \$16,500.00 in State funds.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and passed to allow the transfer of approximately \$40,000.00 of County appropriation from Special Assistance to Adults to Medicaid Fund with no increase in the total budget appropriation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed to request the Department of Transportation to add to the State System the Dupree Landing Road as far as it has been sanded, and as the sanding is extended the State extend the maintenance until it reaches the Dam. This road is in Waccamaw Township.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and passed that the Red Cross Office be moved into the trailer purchased from the Airport Authority and located back of the Floyd Johnson Center.

Henry Molden, with the State Personnel Office, met with the Board to further discuss the proposed affirmative action plan for Columbus County. Several dates were determined by the Board for implementing various parts of the plan and some terminology was changed.

With the above changes and upon review and approval of the County Attorney, a motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed that the Affirmative Action Plan for Columbus County be adopted and that the Clerk to the

*Page reversed - See page 79*

Ordered: that a refund be given to Gaston Sellers, Rt. 4, Whiteville, N. C., in the amount of \$11.88, Lees Township, for 1978 taxes paid in error.

Ordered: that a refund be given E. E. Wright, Tabor City, N. C., South Williams Township, in the amount of \$163.20 due to an error in transferring property which should be listed to Elton C. Stevens. The taxes paid in error are for the years 1976-1977.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed that the Attorney write a letter to the local Legislators and request that a local bill be introduced for Columbus County to reverse the legislation previously passed which set the salary for Columbus County Commissioners.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed that the Attorney draw a contract between Columbus County and SENCland to allow SENCland to operate the transportation program now contracted between Columbus County and N. C. Department of Transportation. Chairman Marlowe, Robert Clark, Emogene Suggs and the Attorney will participate in the drawing of the Contract and when completed, the Chairman will sign for the County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed that South Hall, in the Miller Building, be designated as office space for SENCland Community Action, Inc. and that the County clean the floors after removing the materials and equipment now stored there. SENCland will be responsible for any other repairs or maintenance they wish to do before moving.

Mrs. Clifford Newsome met with the Board to request that they pass an ordinance or take any steps they can to protect the citizens of the County from high-pressure salesmen (women) as many elderly, and others, are being "ripped-off" and buying worthless items. She cited some cases that she knew about personally and was very concerned that something be done to protect people. The Board asked that the Attorney study the situation and make a report to the Board at a later meeting.

Reports were presented to the Board by Carroll-Phelps Company Representative, Steve Whitacre, who stated that the revaluation for Columbus County is approximately 15% complete at this time.

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

There was a short discussion concerning the Architect's report on the status of the preparation of documents for application for a skilled nursing home. Information will be at this time is that no allotments/made to Columbus County within the next five years. Further information is expected by the 15th of February.

At 2:00 p.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and approved that the Board adjourn into executive session to discuss a personnel matter with employees of the Columbus County Landfill.

At 6:00 p.m. the meeting recessed until 8:00 to reconvene in executive session.

At 10:00 p.m. the meeting reconvened in regular session and the following business was transacted:

The following Proclamation was passed upon motion by Commissioner McPherson and seconded by Commissioner Williamson:

A FARM CENSUS PROCLAMATION

Because the economy of Columbus County benefits greatly from farming, the County's presiding officials bring to the attention of all County residents the 1978 Census of Agriculture.

WHEREAS, the farm census is the source of accurate information on the number of farms and farm operators in our County;

WHEREAS, it is also the source of information about our basic agricultural assets;

WHEREAS, it also provides accurate data on farm sales as well as farm production costs in our County;

AND WHEREAS, many business decisions made by the County's farmers, as well as those who do business with them, depend heavily upon accurate benchmark data from Census of Agriculture;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the County's presiding officials urge all farm operators to fill out and return promptly the farm census questionnaires they have received in the mail and thus help to make the 1978 census the most successful in a series of 21 farm census counts which began in 1840.

/s/ Waldo Marlowe, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Dew and passed to designate the Pee Dee Council of Governments as the agency for EMS 1202 Grant Application and Planning process for Area V which includes Columbus County.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed that the requested change in vacation time allowed County employees who have worked over ten years be reconsidered at budget time. The request was made by some employees at the Department of Social Services in response to the Board's invitation for suggestions in revising the Administrative Policy.

Upon motion the meeting adjourned until February 19, 1979, at 10:00 a.m.

APPROVED:

*Emogene M. Suggs*  
Clerk

*Waldo Marlowe*  
Chairman