

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners met in their said office at 10:00 a.m., March 22, 1979, according to adjournment.

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 (Part-time)

Emogene W. Suggs, Clerk

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman and the following business was transacted:

The Chairman announced that Department of Transportation Officials, Arthur W. Williamson, Board Member; E. J. Butler, Division Engineer and B. A. Mills, District Engineer were present to allow any citizen to be heard concerning secondary road improvement requests.

There was a lengthy discussion concerning roads, after which a motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed to adopt the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION FOR PRIORITIES FOR SECONDARY ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR
FISCAL YEAR 1979-80

WHEREAS, Department of Transportation Officials have said that funds in the amount of \$565,185.00 have been allocated to Columbus County for improvement of secondary roads for fiscal year 1979-80;

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County request and recommend that the list of roads scheduled for improvements within Columbus County shall read as follows:

BASE & PAVE: SR 1907, SR 1113 and SR 1106

GRADE, DRAIN & STABILIZE: SR 1822, SR 1730, SR 1362, SR 1313, SR 1401, SR 1145,
SR 1557, SR 1555, SR 1556, SR 1418, SR 1532, SR 1152,
SR 1530, SR 1432 and Dale Road addition from SR 1836
south ½ mile.

STRENGTHEN PAVEMENT: SR 1002, SR 1006 and SR 1173.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County that in the next allocation of funds for Columbus County that the following secondary roads be given first priorities for improvements;

SR 1161, SR 1547, SR 1726, SR 1728, SR 1729, SR 1940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

/s/ Waldo Marlowe, Chairman

Attested: /s/ Emogene W. Suggs, Clerk

Mr. Williamson stated that the funds allocated to Columbus County for 1979-80 are anticipated as follows:

Bond Funds	\$216,269.00
Anticipated Taxes	348,916.00
TOTAL\$565,185.00

He also stated that any road for which the right-of-way could not be obtained could not be improved and funds allocated to that road could be used for another priority subject to the approval of the Commissioners.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed that Columbus County make application for a 701 Planning Grant and accept the obligation of furnishing half of the required funds.

The Board reviewed the Project Applications for Title VI as it was indicated that the Drainage Project for Simmons Bay & Gapway would not be approved as it would involve work on privately owned property.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed to put the College Project and Town of Bolton on equal priority to be funded for Title VI funds. The Town of Bolton is to receive approximately \$25,000 and the College the remaining funds which is approximately \$35,000. These two agencies now are participating in projects and would involve termination of several employees if they are not funded again.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed to allow Tracy Folyd to advertise for a full time permanent employee to work at the Miller Building as general maintenance and floor cleaning position. The salary is to be at the minimum wage. Mr. Floyd is allowed to hire the person now under contract on a full time basis until such time as he can complete the process to hire a regular employee.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed to amend the Recreation Department budget to transfer funds between line items to transfer \$5,000 from Capital Outlay to Supplies as the original appropriation was misclassified.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed to adopt the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, Columbus County Commissioners have been informed by the Columbus County Extension Chairman that there presently exists a heavy infestation of beavers in the Chadbourn-Five Points area of the said County; and

WHEREAS, Columbus County is the second largest county in North Carolina with approximately 915 square miles; and

WHEREAS, that approximately ten (10) percent of the said County is heavily

infested by the beavers and that the said beavers have mainly affected agricultural and forestry lands by forming dams backing water and flooding the same; and

WHEREAS, the Columbus County Extension Service has received numerous complaints concerning the beaver problem during the years 1978 and 1979; and

WHEREAS, the beavers have damaged Columbus County at an estimated sum of seventy five thousand (\$75,000.00) dollars; and

WHEREAS, the elimination or relocation of the beavers is necessary for the proper development of agricultural and forestry property; and

WHEREAS, the Columbus County Commissioners and the Columbus County Extension Service are interested in the elimination and/or relocation of the beavers, both to be accomplished through humane measures; and

BE IT, THEREFORE, RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County that they are in support of the relocation and/or elimination of the beavers which presently are infesting and inhabiting the Chadbourn-Five Points area, and that the said County is interested in the protection of the agricultural and forestry land; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Division, Raleigh, North Carolina, 27611, and to Mr. Benton Baumbarger, Wildlife Biologist, and the Legislative Delegation which represents Columbus County in the North Carolina General Assembly, and to Mr. J. R. Kennedy, District Supervisor for the Department of North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County is in favor of allowing and requesting the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission to remove the said beavers through any humane process, or an alternative of requesting that the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission allow the farmers to eliminate and eradicate the beavers through any humane process in order to protect the well being of the agricultural and forestry lands of Columbus County.

This the 22nd day of March, 1979.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

A letter was presented to the Board from the the Chairman of the Board of Elections requesting that the Commissioners not authorize the purchase of Computer Elections Systems voting equipment until further determination is made by the Board of Elections as to who authorized the purchase and shipment of the equipment and who is responsible for the receipt of same that is now at the Board of Elections Building. And asked that the Board of Elections be allowed to advise the Commissioners of action they (Elections Board) take regarding the purchase of voting equipment and that their request to purchase Valtec equipment be considered.

After a discussion of the matter, the Board instructed the Finance Officer to not sign any purchase order for purchasing any equipment until further instructions from the Commissioners.

In compliance with the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following dates

were set for days of Equalization and Review for any taxpayer to meet with the Board regarding the valuation of their property:

April 19 and April 26, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 12:00 Noon.

The Clerk was instructed to contact the Hospital Board of Trustees and the Administrator, by letter, to inquire into the status of the 'punch list' that is to be corrected before the guarantee expires on the construction of the Hospital.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed that Columbus County enter into contract with Dr. Samuel Wheatley to hire a midwife to work in Columbus County under Dr. Wheatley's supervision at a salary of \$15,000.00 to be paid by the County. The midwife is to be a certified Nurse Midwife and is to work with both clinic and private patients.

Upon motion the meeting adjourned until April 2, 1979, at 10:00 a.m.

APPROVED:

Emogene N. Suggs
Clerk

Waldo Melrose
Chairman