

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners met in their said office at 7:30 p.m., October 28, 1963 in a call meeting.

Members of the Board Present:

L. P. Ward, Chairman

W. B. Buffkin

Luther C. Rich

Robert E. Sessions

Lacy R. Thompson

Mazzalee T. Sanderford, Clerk

The following business was transacted:

A motion was made, duly seconded, and unanimously carried, to accept the resignation of Eldred Buffkin, Supervisor of Surplus Commodities Distribution, effective October 31, 1963. It was further moved, seconded, and carried, that Mr. Buffkin be paid two weeks' salary in lieu of vacation time, and the clerk was instructed to write a letter of appreciation to Mr. Buffkin for the very fine service he has rendered.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sessions, seconded by Commissioner Buffkin, and unanimously carried, to employ Pat Wooten to succeed Eldred Buffkin as Supervisor of Surplus Commodities, at a salary of \$280 per month effective immediately.

The County Attorney was authorized and instructed to appear before the Columbus County Flu Cured Tobacco Growers' Association in a meeting to be held at 7:30 p.m., October 29, 1963, and read the following statement of position of the County Commissioners in regard to the equalization program:

"Realizing the interest of the farmers in the equalization program of Columbus County the Board of County Commissioners wish to make the following statement:

The purpose of the appraisal of real estate now going on in Columbus County is not to raise taxes of any individual or groups of individuals. Its single purpose is to equalize the value of real estate of all the citizens of our county in relationship, one with the other.

There have been numerous rumors throughout our county that there is a proposed monetary value to be placed on each acre of tobacco allotment. There has been no decision made in this matter, therefore there is no truth to these rumors.

The County Commissioners, in accordance with the dictates of the North Carolina General Assembly that an equalization of Columbus County real estate must be completed by January 1, 1965, contracted with a professional appraisal firm, Southern Appraisal Company of Greensboro, North Carolina, to make these appraisals. This firm is well recommended and has years of experience in this field. While we realize that the Board of Commissioners have the final say, we feel that until all the information secured by the appraisal firm is presented it is impossible to make an intelligent decision as to whether or not allotted crops should be considered in equalizing farm with farm. It is our hope and sincere desire that all criteria used in determining the valuation of farm real estate will serve to equalize and will be fair and impartial to all the citizens of Columbus County.

We assure you that we have the welfare of the farmers of Columbus County foremost in our minds and hearts and will do nothing in this appraisal program that will be detrimental to you. We only ask that you be considerate of our position and rely on our best judgment in determining your and the other citizens' of Columbus County best interest."

Upon motion the meeting adjourned until 10 a.m., November 4, 1963.

APPROVED:

Wayne J. Sanderson  
Clerk

L. P. Ward  
Chairman