

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners met in their said office at 10 a.m., December 16, 1966 according to adjournment.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD PRESENT:

W. O. Johnson, Chairman  
 T. E. Burns (absent)  
 J. Roland Gore  
 H. J. Watts  
 Edward W. Williamson (absent) Mazzalee T. Sanderford, Clerk

The following business was transacted:

Ordered: that the following statement be presented to the State Highway Commission at a public hearing to be held at Delco on December 21st regarding proposed improvement for Highway 74:

TO: N. C. State Highway Commission  
 Public Hearing, December 21, 1966  
 Delco, N. C.

FROM: Board of County Commissioners  
 Columbus County

The Board of Commissioners of Columbus County presents herewith remarks and recommendations pertaining to proposed improvements for Highway 74 from Leland to Bolton.

The Board is pleased to invite attention of the Commission to the cause of better highways in the state's Southeastern area and to the pressing needs of a modern throughway linking the East with the West and serving all who would traverse the route for both business and pleasure. While the Board does not know at the moment what the Commission has in mind for the Bolton-Leland section of Highway 74, we recognize the demand for improvement is great and believe that what is done will be in the best interest of all concerned.

The Board recognizes, also, that some property owners will be inconvenienced temporarily while the work is in progress. Even so, the Board is confident that no undue burden will be imposed on any property owner and that fair and equitable treatment will be accorded all through the right of condemnation.

We, members of the Board, come with no reservations and we are happy to offer endorsement of what is proposed, as we see the proposal now-- prior to the hearing, and with the hope that Highway 74, in the larger picture, will be so reconstructed as to provide additional highway services in keeping with present needs and growing demands of the future.

Nearly half a century ago, this state's "good roads" governor, Cameron Morrison, predicted that North Carolina would grow and progress in direct relation to the availability of farm-to-market roads and a system of highways connecting county seat with county seat from Manteo to Murphy.

The Legislature of Governor Morrison's term, 1921-1925, saw the light and yielded to his request for some \$40 million in bonds to start North Carolina on the road to prosperity and to establish the state as one of the most progressive of the nation.

We, representatives of the 50,000 people of Columbus County, still abide by and believe in the basic principles pertaining to public roads as laid down by Mr. Morrison. Any other course, we hold, would be in direct conflict with and betrayal of the basic intent of the original highway program and developments that have come in succeeding decades.

Thank you for hearing out Columbus County views on the matter under discussion here today.

W. O. Johnson, Chairman  
 Board of Commissioners  
 Columbus County

Ordered: that upon the request of the Board of Education, an extension of sixty days be granted on the time limit relative to the selection of a site for the proposed

South Columbus High School.

Ordered: that the chairman be authorized to sign a retainer contract with Southern Appraisal Company of Greensboro at a per diem fee of \$80.00 per day per appraiser.

Upon motion the meeting adjourned until 10 a.m., January 3, 1967.

APPROVED:

Myrtle J. Spencer  
Clerk

W. O. Johnson  
Chairman