

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners met in their said office at 10:00 a.m., June 21, 1971, it being third Monday.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD PRESENT:

Edward W. Williamson, Chairman

J. Roland Gore

H. J. Watts

W. O. Johnson

T. E. Burns

Emogene W. Suggs, Clerk

The following business was transacted:

Minutes of the preceeding meeting were approved by the Board

Ordered: that the valuation of the property listed in the name of Donna C. Grain-Heirs ger/be reduced by the amount of \$1580. due to a house burning in 1968. Taxes are to be adjusted For the years 1968, 1969 and 1970.

Ordered: that a check from the Out-Door-Poor Fund be given to Mrs. Agnes Locklear from Tabor City in the amount of \$25.00.

Mr. Bennett White, Chairman of the Elections Board, came to discuss the Budget for the coming fiscal year. He asked the Commissioners to consider the following request: Improve polling places, repair Board of Elections Building, and select Commissioners of Registration to register voters in the respective precincts.

ROAD PETITION: Lees Township - SR 1927, known as Snake Island Road, is 2 miles in length and has 16 occupied homes located on it.

The Commissioners assembled in their said office at 2:00 p.m. as advertised in the three county papers to have a public hearing concerning the levying of a one per cent (1%) local sales & use tax for Columbus County. The following citizens were present:

Horace Whitley, Mayor of Whiteville
R. C. Soles, Sr., Mayor of Tabor City
Clyde Elliott, Mayor of Chadbourn
J. M. Jackson, Council Member of Chadbourn
Ann Small
Robert Stanley
Bobby Duncan
L. A. Sellers
Leo Mercer

Members of the press present:
Ed Harper
Clara Cartrette
Ray Wyche

County Attorney made opening comments and informed those present before giving each person an opportunity to make their feelings known. All persons present expressed a desire to have the sales tax adopted. Councilman Jackson and Mayor Soles expressed a desire to have the distribution made on a per capita basis, should the Board adopt the tax. After much discussion the following resolution was offered by Commissioner Gore and read at the meeting:

A RESOLUTION LEVYING A ONE PER CENT (1%) LOCAL SALES & USE TAX AND PRESCRIBING THE METHOD OF DISTRIBUTION OF THE NET PROCEEDS WITHIN COLUMBUS COUNTY

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the question of levying a one per cent (1%) local sales & use tax in Columbus County was held on June 21, 1971, pursuant to public notice duly given as required by law; and

WHEREAS, all interested citizens were given an opportunity to present their views for and against the levy of said tax in Columbus County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County is now of the opinion and does hereby find and declare that the levy of said sales tax within Columbus County is both desirable and necessary to adequately finance the operation of the county and the cities and towns herein; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Columbus County as follows:

Section 1. There is hereby imposed and levied within Columbus County the one per cent (1%) local sales and use tax authorized by Senate Bill 81, ratified on March 15, 1971, and to be codified as Article 39, Subchapter VIII, Chapter 105 of the General Statutes of N. C. The tax hereby imposed and levied shall apply to the same extent and subject to the same limitations as are set forth in Sections 105-467 and 105-468 contained in Senate Bill 81,

Section 2. Collection of the tax by the North Carolina Commissioner of Revenue, and liability therefor, shall begin and continue on and after the first day of August, 1971.

Section 3. The net proceeds of the tax levied herein shall be distributed by the Commissioner of Revenue to Columbus County and to each municipality herein upon a per capita basis to be determined in the manner set forth in Section 105-472 (a) as written in Senate Bill 81.

Section 4. This resolution shall become effective upon its adoption and a certified copy hereof shall be delivered immediately to the North Carolina Commissioner of Revenue.

The foregoing resolution was unanimously adopted at the regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners on this the 21st day of June, 1971, and a certified copy was sent to the Commissioner of Revenue, Raleigh, N. C.

/s/ Emogene W. Suggs
Clerk to the Board

The following motion was made by Commissioner Watts, seconded by Commissioner Gore and passed by the following vote: Voting yes - Commissioners Gore, Watts, and Johnson
Voting no - Commissioner Burns

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners heretofore on this the 21st day of June 1971, passed a resolution imposing a one per cent (1%) local sales and use tax in Columbus County pursuant to provisions of SB81 as ratified March 15, 1971; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners is of the opinion that said additional funds from sales & use tax will provide sufficient funds to enable them to reduce the ad valorem tax/for the coming tax year in Columbus County from \$1.90 to \$1.70 for said year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners does hereby reduce the tax levy for the fiscal year 1971-72 by 20¢ to \$1.70.

A substitute motion was made by Commissioner Burns that the action on Commissioner Watts motion be deferred until the first meeting in July. This motion did not get a second. The motion was withdrawn by Commissioner Burns.

A motion was made by Commissioner Burns, seconded by Commissioner Johnson that the resignation of R. C. Soles, Jr., County Attorney, be accepted with regret, effective June 30, 1971. The Board unanimously voted to insert the following in the official minutes of this meeting;

The Honorable R. C. Soles, Jr. has served the Commissioners of Columbus County as County Attorney for five and one-half years. During all this time Mr. Soles has been cooperative and informative. He has helped clarify and simplify the mechanics of running a county government. Unfortunately Mr. Soles is only ^{one} and we realize, with all his pressing duties, he must curtail some activities. Fortunately, though, he will still be serving us and all Columbus Countyans as our very outstanding, active democratic representative in the North Carolina General Assembly.

So regretfully, we accept Mr. Soles' resignation as our County Attorney. We'll always cherish his friendship and know well he will answer quickly our S.O.S. We thank him for his help and many deeds beyond the call of duty. The word Honorable fits Honorable R. C. Soles, Jr. well.

Ordered: that Sankey W. Robinson be retained as County Attorney beginning July 1, 1971 to replace Mr. Soles.

Mr. Dave Alexander came to discuss the future plans of SEDC and inform the Commissioners of thier programs if the Board had any questions they would like to ask.

Upon motion the meeting adjourned until July 6, 1971

APPROVED:

Emogene M Suggs
Clerk

Edward W. Williams
Chairman

W. S. Johnson
Vice-Chairman