

The honorable Board of County Commissioners met in their said office at 7:30 p.m., Monday, January 24, 1977, 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

Emogene W. Suggs, Clerk

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed to declare an executive session of the Board for the purpose of interviewing the applicants for the position of equipment operator at the Landfill.

The meeting reconvened and the following business was transacted:

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson to hire Graham Williamson as equipment operator at the Landfill at a beginning salary of \$646.00 per month. He is to be hired on a probationary period of 90 days. It was further ordered that Joel Howard Freeman and Michael Hardwick be hired under the CETA Program, subject to their eligibility, to work at the Landfill under the direction of Hobson Ivey at a rate of \$3.00 per hour. The motion was passed.

There was a lengthy discussion concerning the mental health programs in the County with input from Charles R. Ward and Chief Jesse Barker. Mr. Ward expressed the feeling that the mental health services in the County were no better now than when he began serving on the Area Mental Health Board two and one-half years ago except for the fact that the time of the meetings was changed to a more convenient time for him to attend. Chief Barker stated that much time is now being spent by the Police Department in transportation of mental health patients to institutions outside the County and that this time could be used serving the people in other matters to a good advantage if they were free to do so.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson to declare Columbus County independent as a mental health unit and get busy hiring personnel and getting programs underway that would be responsive to the peoples' needs to begin independent operation in the County July 1, 1977.

The vote was taken as follows: Voting YES were Commissioners Hinson and Williamson.

Voting NO were Commissioners Marlowe, Dew and McPherson

The Motion was not passed. Those voting YES felt the information was adequate to make a decision and the change was for the best interest of the citizens of the County in that the services for mental health would be improved. Those voting NO expressed an interest in taking more time in making a decision by getting more information of the involvement of the change.

Upon motion the meeting adjourned until February 7, 1977, at 10:00 a.m.

APPROVED:

Clerk Emogene W. Suggs

Chairman Waldo Marlowe