

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners met in their said office at 10:00 a.m., February 7, 1977, it being first Monday.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD PRESENT:

C. Waldo Marlowe, Chairman

Junior W. Dew, Vice-Chairman

Edward W. Williamson (Afternoon Session Only)

L. A. Hinson

David L. McPherson

James E. Hill, Jr., Attorney

Emogene W. Suggs, Clerk

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman and the invocation was given by Rabbi Ruben Kesner, Beth-Isreal Center, Whiteville, N. C.

The meeting adjourned to the Courthouse to attend the reception honoring Raymond B. Mallard as a distinguished citizen of the County.

At 11:15 the meeting reconvened in the regular meeting place and the following business was transacted:

Approximately fifteen citizens had assembled in the meeting room and expressed favor-
tism for the County to become independent as a one-county mental health center. Some citizens
expressing concern were Donnie Graham, Steve Frink, Rudolph Walters, Sibyl Geary, Frances Wheeler,
and F. J. Corbett. All comments from the group were favorable to a one-county system as they
felt better services would be available and be more convenient for persons using the services.
Board Members informed the persons appearing that they were all for better mental health services
and that they were in the process of assembling information from various authorities that would
enable them to make a sound judgment when a final decision is made.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and passed
that the minutes of January 18th and 24th be approved as recorded.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and
passed to set the beginning salary of James Milton Thomas, Police Officer II, at \$739.00 per month.
This request was made by William Waddell and Frances Wheeler, Public Safety Commission Board Members.

The Interagency Council, with Steve Smith as spokesman, asked the Board to be re-
sponsive to the fact that there is a transportation need for disadvantaged persons in the County.
He asked the Board to appoint a transportation Advisory Council to work with Rose Ann Mack, COG,
to do a transportation study of the needs of disadvantaged persons as it related to Social Services,
Senaland Community Action, Sheltered Workshop, Health Department and any other service agencies
in the County.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and
passed to name the following persons to the Council upon the recommendation of the interagency

Council;	Paul Pope	Jesse Barker	Irene Young
	L. A. Hinson	Pearl Fowler	Amanda Bible
	Edwin Tatum	Ava Graham	Jim Bellamy
	Jimmy Godwin	Julie Stocks	A. B. Dawsey
	Ann Small	Ralph Rogers	A. P. Worley

Transportation Advisory Board Continued:

Jim Hutton	Harvey Russ	Wray Thompson
Mavis Carroll	Edd Dudney	Rose Ann Mack
C. A. Butler	Robert Clark	Elizabeth Covington
Margaret Reeves	Hester McCray	Susan Wood
Sam Stell	Harold Troy	

In addition to the above there will be a representative from the following agencies:

State Dept. of Corrections	Probation Office	Chadbourn Police Dept.
Boys Home Director	Good Shepherd Home	Tabor City Police
American Red Cross		

A request was presented to the Board from the Library Board of Trustees that Mrs. Neallie Shaw of Riegelwood be appointed to fill the unexpired term of Mrs. Vera Gainey who resigned due to ill health. The term will end on June 30, 1978. A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed to grant this request.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed to allow administrative leave to persons who were unable to work on January 31st due to adverse weather conditions. The schools were closed by the Superintendent of Schools because of snow.

A Resolution was presented to the Board from Onslow County Commissioners which asked endorsement of the Resolution which would support legislation making it mandatory for all persons convicted of driving under the influence of drugs, liquor or with a blood-alcohol level of .10 or more to spend one to five days in jail. Commissioner Hinson stated he was in favor of supporting the Resolution. A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner Williamson to table the resolution at this time.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed that the Chairman be authorized to sign an agreement with the Nakina Rescue Squad to allow them to apply for a loan from FHA on the same terms as agreements with other Squads which have already been signed. County Attorney Hill was directed to prepare the agreement.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Dew and passed to approve the budget amendments as presented by the Board of Education and Southeastern Community College as follows:

\$314,000.00 for Capital Improvements - (Guideway School) To be derived from State Literary Loan and General Fund if no grant can be obtained.

\$ 8,000.00 for emergency roof repairs and excessive electric bills to be derived from College Current Expense Surplus.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed to appoint Commissioner McPherson to the Resources, Conservation and Development Study Commission for a term of one year.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed to allow Mrs. Ann Talbott to hire a person to trim the shrubbery around the Courthouse.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed ordering the Clerk to write a letter to the Hospital Board of Trustees making a formal request for six rooms in the new hospital to be designated as rooms for mental health patients.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed authorizing the Chairman to sign applications for radios through the Emergency Medical Services for rescue squads in the County but at no cost to the County.

The following tax releases were granted upon motion by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and passed:

Recommended by Tax Collector:

Ordered: that a refund in the amount of \$4.68 be given to V.N.B. Mortgage Co., P. O. Box 26388, Richmond, Va. This was an error in that V.N.B. Mortgage Co. paid George C. & Sue Davis Creech's taxes in the amount of \$219.60, Bogue Township. They should have paid Carleen & Gene Ray Creech's taxes in the amount of \$214.92, Bogue Township. The incorrect receipt has been returned to the Tax Collector's Office and placed in the receipt book.

Recommended by Tax Supervisor:

Ordered: that the 1974, 1975 and 1976 taxes listed in the name of Hilda E. Hewett, Lees Township, be released on the valuation of \$1,120.00 due to an error in transferring property. The property should be listed to W. Odell Ezzell.

Ordered: that the 1976 taxes listed in the name of James Freeman, Bolton Township, be released on the valuation of \$14,790.00 due to double listing in another township.

Ordered: that the 1976 taxes listed in the name of Bennie J. and Betty M. Merritt, Tatum Township, be released on the valuation of \$13,515.00. This property was cancelled and new listings made in August, 1976, on the Late List, but this information failed to reach the Tax Collector's Office.

Ordered: that the taxes listed in the name of Louise Hamer, Chadbourn Township, be cancelled for the years 1973 through 1976 due to house being double listed. House is also listed to B. F. Shaw.

Ordered: that the Late Listing Penalty on Dameron Drug Store, South Williams Township be released in the amount of \$21.86. Mr. Dameron was under the impression that he had listed his personal property with his real property but had failed to do so.

It was further ordered that the following be allowed an extension of time to list their taxes:

The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co.	March 1
Fieldcrest Mills, Inc.	March 31
E. D. Systems Leasing Corp.	March 1
E. D. Systems Corp.	March 1
E. D. S. Service Corp.	March 1
Belks	March 1
Lucas Leasing, Ltd.	February 28
Coffee Time/North Carolina, Inc.	February 15
Blue Jeans Corp.	February 28
Joevitt	February 28
National Spinning Co.	February 28
Automotive Rentals	March 1
C & J Tire Service	February 28
Jerry Stephens	February 28
Federal Pacific Electric	March 1

Dixie Grain & Feed	February 8
Curtis Brewer	February 17
Grace Marlowe	February 11
Reba E. Bryant (Edmond Bryant Heirs)	March 1
Clara Cartrett	March 1
Arthur W. Williamson, Jr.	March 1
Clyde Wayne	March 1
Canal Industries	February 28
Canal Wood Corp.	February 28
Canal Land Co.	February 28
Gibson-Wall Investment Co.	February 28
Alice Rose Gibson & Maysie H. Wall	February 28
D/A Gibson-Wall Mercantile Co.	February 28
Herbert White	March 1

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner Dew and passed designating Commissioner Williamson as the person to make an inquiry into all mental health facilities at the county level to determine which properties belong to Columbus County.

Representative Ron Taylor met with the Board to inform them of some bills that should be of interest to the Board that are upcoming in the Legislature. He expressed a desire to work with the Board and asked that they contact him at any time as he could assist them in any way.

Claude Spivey met with the Board to express dissatisfaction that the new hospital has only private rooms. He made no request of the Board.

Max Walker presented the following request to the Board as personal request rather than from the Solid Waste Department:

1. He requested that he be paid bi-weekly rather than monthly.
2. He would like a better retirement program or not be required to participate in the present plan
3. He would like air conditioning on the trucks that pick up trash.
4. He feels the Landfill workers are not adequately paid for the amount of work they do and would like a greater increase in next year's budget.

No action was taken on the request at this meeting except the Clerk was instructed to write a letter to the Retirement System in Raleigh to inquire if he may be exempt from participating in the retirement plan.

There was further discussion concerning mental health services and Attorney Hill was asked to arrange a meeting with Dr. Moore, Regional Mental Health Director; Ralph Rogers, Hospital Administrator; and Clyde Wayne, Hospital Board Trustee, to gather more information as to cost and services for the County if the decision is made to establish a one-county service.

Upon motion the meeting adjourned until February 14th at 7:30 p.m. to meet with the above referenced persons concerning mental health services on a one-county basis.

APPROVED:

Emogene W. Suggs
Clerk

Waldo Marlowe
Chairman