

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners met in their said office at 10:00 a.m., May 2, 1977, it being first Monday.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD PRESENT:

C. Waldo Marlowe, Chairman

Junior W. Dew, Vice-Chairman

Edward W. Williamson

L. A. Hinson

David L. McPherson

Jemes E. Hill, Jr., Attorney

Emogene W. Suggs, Clerk

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman and the invocation was given by The Reverend Carl Greene, Pastor, Evergreen Baptist Church.

The following business was transacted:

The minutes of the April 18th meeting were approved as recorded upon motion by Commissioner McPherson and seconded by Commissioner Hinson.

Mr. Coy Etheridge, representing the American Association of Retired People, met with the Board to request a toll-free telephone be installed at the Law Enforcement Center to be used as an emergency line for persons in the County who need to call to the County Police. Mr. Don Phillips and Mr. W. M. Littleton of Carolina Telephone & Telegraph Company presented a recommendation to the Board as a reasonable means of offering the service.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and approved to install an incoming WATS line in the Law Enforcement Center at a cost of \$220.00 per month for 10 hours. The time is to be metered and have two incoming lines. For time over the first 10 hours there will be a charge of \$16.50 per hour for the first five hours and \$14.30 for the additional hours over fifteen.

The Board instructed the County Attorney to write a letter to Chief Barker instructing him to have incoming calls to this line logged and an additional letter to the Public Safety Commission instructing them to compare the time charged as opposed to the time logged. The purpose of this is to control the use of the line so that the public may have access to the Police and the line be available for the purpose intended.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and passed to reappoint Commissioner Williamson and R. B. Walters. (Col., Ret.) to continue to serve on the Lower Cape Fear Water & Sewer Authority.

Bids were opened for purchasing a truck for the Dog Warden and recorded as follows:

Wheeler Chevrolet, Inc.	\$4,579.00 Including Tax - 2BBL Carburetor
	\$4,649.00 " " 4BBL Carburetor
Bond Included	
Ramsey Chevrolet Co., Inc.	\$4,715.60 Plus Tax in the amount of \$94.30
No Bond	
Ideal Ford-Mercury, Inc.	\$4,819.50 Including Tax
No Bond	

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed to award the bid to Wheeler Chevrolet for the total price of \$4,649. (4BBL Carburetor)

Charles Simmons, Bolton Township, met with the Board to make a complaint stating that his rights have been violated. He read several sections of the North Carolina and United States Constitutions which referred to law enforcement. He stated that he felt that the County Police Department is not legal and the power of law enforcement should be returned to the Sheriff's Department. He respectfully requested that the Board return the power to the Sheriff and transfer all property, equipment and personnel to the Sheriff who is a constitutionally designated law enforcement officer. If the Public Safety Commission refuse the transfer, he requested the Chairman of the Board to direct the County Attorney to obtain a court order to carry out his request. Also, withhold funds from the Public Safety Commission until further action can be taken and he proposes that tax payers withhold tax money until constitutional law is returned.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed that the Attorney look into the matter requested by Mr. Simmons and report to the Board at the next meeting before any action is taken.

Seth Martin, Asst. Chief, Brunswick Volunteer Fire Dept., Donald Hunt and Mimi Cunningham met with the Board to ask financial assistance from the County equal to the amount other departments in the County Association are receiving, and to approve the boundary map to have the area Brunswick serves certified.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Dew and passed authorizing the Chairman to sign the necessary documents for Brunswick Volunteer Fire Department to obtain a rating after the boundary map has been approved by the State and also sign a contract that the County will make annual appropriations to the Department in the amount of \$2,000.

Mr. Martin was further assured that the Board would seriously consider his request for an annual appropriation of \$4,000 at time of reviewing the budget estimate.

Mimi Cunningham reviewed the forms to be sent for application for Community Development Grants. After the review of the forms a motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed authorizing the Chairman to sign the documents to make application for the Grant for four designated areas of the County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and passed authorizing the Chairman to sign the Contract/<sup>Amendment</sup>with the Office of Employment & Training to continue receiving funds for the employemnt of CETA workers through the month of May. This Amendment is for Title VI.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and passed instructing the County Attorney to advertise the sale of two county owned houses at public auction on May 16th. One house located on West Smith Street and one on Thompson Street. He was also instructed to include the garage on Thompson Street as a separate item to be sold separately.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and approved that the Board of Commissioners give authority to the Whiteville Police Department to patrol all

County owned property within the incorporated area of the City of Whiteville.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and approved that the Stenographer-Clerk II in the office of Civil Preparedness be paid at a rate of \$517.00 per month which is step II under the State Competitive Service Pay Scale. The Board instructed the County Attorney to send a letter to all departments under the System not to hire an employee above the standard beginning salary and to verify the salary with the Accountant. This reaffirms the policy adopted on March 21, 1977.

By general consent the Board approved the recommendation of the Tax Supervisor that the Budget be based on the valuation of \$350,000,000 at a collection rate of 88% for the FY1977-78.

The Budget Estimate for the Community College was presented to the Board by Dr. McCarter, Mr. Wyche and Mr. Stanley. The increase requested by the delegation in County funds is \$67,000. The Board commended them for a job well done in the administration of the College and stated they would give their request due consideration when reviewing the total budget request.

William Waddell, PSC Chairman, presented the Budget Estimate for the Public Safety Commission which includes the County Police and the Law Enforcement Center. He stated that the increase of \$92,198 was due to inflation and cost of living expense. There is no request for additional personnel. The Board will consider their request along with the other request later.

Also there was a discussion of the sale of two junked cars at the Center. There was no decision made to sell the cars at this time.

There was further discussion concerning office space for the District Court Judges in the County. No decision was made at this time as no space is presently available in the Courthouse.

Steve Smith and several members of the Inter-Agency Council met with the Board and presented a request for better services for the handicapped, poor and elderly in the County. The plan involves the agencies that provide services to these people and the need was expressed for an inter-agency transportation system to be developed. The request from County funds is for \$6,500 to be used as matching funds for a grant of \$19,639. Also involved would be \$9,704. from the Sheltered Workshop. No action was taken at this time but the Board told Mr. Smith they would have an answer to his request at the May 16th meeting.

The Recreation Study Committee with Dan Bartley as spokesman, met with the Board to request that the Study Committee be made a Recreation Commission and be a working department of the County. They felt they could no longer function effectively as a committee but expressed much interest in a recreation program being developed for all citizens of the County. The Board gave an informal opinion that they would be made a Commission and instructed the Attorney to prepare a resolution establishing a Commission for consideration at the next meeting.

Mr. Edd Ulrich requested that prior years taxes be released on Anchorage Property

at Lake Waccamaw. The property is now a ~~non-profit~~ owned by a non-profit organization which is tax-exempt but was purchased taking all assets and liabilities which included about \$2,000 in back taxes. Attorney Hill quoted the General Statutes which will not allow the Board to legally release the taxes in question.

At the March 21st meeting the Board had discussed the appropriation of the Anti-Recession Funds which had been received by the County. The Board advised the Accountant to use the funds in compliance with the Anti-Recession Act to apply to salaries in the General Fund. At this time the Board was asked to approve applying the funds to the Sheriff's Department for a six months period which would use the Anti-Recession Funds for the first quarter in the amount of \$30,705. The Board agreed unanimously to approve the the recommendation.

Upon motion the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m., May 12, 1977, for the purpose of reviewing the parcels that have been presented to the Board for consideration at the Equalization & Review Meetings.

APPROVED:

Emogene M. Suggs  
Clerk

Waldo Marlene  
Chairman