

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners met in their said office at 10:00 a.m., April 17, 1978, it being third Monday.

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 and the invocation was given by The Reverend Edd Moore, Pastor, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Whiteville, N. C.

The following business was transacted:

The minutes of the April 3rd meeting were approved as recorded upon motion by Commissioner Hinson and seconded by Commissioner Dew.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Dew and approved that the Civil Preparedness Budget be amended to increase line item 525-33 in the amount of \$100.00 and decrease line item 525-74 in like amount with no change in the total department funds.

It was further agreed that the Finance Officer be allowed to transfer funds between line items, not to exceed the total of the specific department.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and approved that Andy Lefler be appointed to serve on the Town Board of Adjustments for Tabor City as requested by the Tabor City Town Council.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and approved that the Register of Deeds be allowed to purchase a map machine at a cost of \$6,131. and that funds be transferred from 480-33 (Supplies) to 480-74 to cover the cost.

Mr. Kirk Grosch of Community Development, met with the Board to discuss the target areas of the County for community development for the FY1978-79. Based on the information given to the Board by Mr. Grosch, the following action was taken:

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and approved that the target areas for Columbus County for 1978-79 be Target Areas "A" through "H" with the exception of "D" (Bolton) which has already had its needs met during this fiscal year.

Areas "A" through "H" which are included are as follows and have the highest percentage of substandard housing: Boardman, Southwest Chadbourn, Hallsboro, Evergreen, Grist, South Chadbourn and Crusoe Island.

This action is subject to the review and recommendation of HUD officials who are to be in the area within the near future. Should the officials feel that a fewer number of target areas would be more favorably considered in securing a grant, Commissioners Marlowe and Williamson were appointed to adjust the list within the recommendation of the HUD officials.

Further action was taken upon motion by Commissioner Dew and seconded by Commissioner McPherson that the proposed Community Development Budget, as it relates to Columbus County

be approved as follows and incorporated in the Budget Resolution for adoption:

Housing Rehabilitation	\$400,000	Federal CD Grant	\$500,000.
Relocation	50,000		
Demolition	25,000		
Planning & Administration	25,000		
Total Expenditures	<u>\$500,000</u>	Total Revenue	<u>\$500,000</u>

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and approved that the Rehabilitation Money Shares be disbursed on the Relative Load Method as opposed to the Equal or Combination Method.

Mr. Groshch stated that he understood that the County would be operating a water management service beginning in July of 1978. He requested that the County approve the use of a dragline to dredge the part of property that is outside the Chadbourn City limits in relation to a project that involves property within and outside the incorporated area.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and approved that the County dredge said property subject to the criteria and guidelines of the Water Management Department when it is established.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and approved that the County enter into contract with the Computer Election Systems to set up a rental agreement to use computer election equipment in two precincts during the General Election in November, 1978, for official voting. The estimated cost will be approximately \$400.00 plus supplies.

The Board of Elections were given permission to allow the Company to display and offer voters to experimentally use the equipment during the upcoming Primary Election in May to use "George Washington" type ballots only, if this is allowable by law.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Dew and approved that the Chairman sign a letter prepared by Col. R. B. Walters (Ret.) to the Secondary Roads Officer, Jack Murdock, Raleigh, N. C., requesting that the Columbus County Secondary Roads Program be amended to include adding to the System, construction and funding of 600 feet egress road for Croft Metals, Fair Bluff, N. C. Presently the road is not on the State System and does not meet State requirements.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and approved to appoint Commissioner Williamson to meet with J. L. Godwin, in lieu of the full Board, and discuss the complaint he has concerning the County Sanitarian, Cecil Edwards and direct him to the proper agency to file his complaint with.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and approved that space for the Recreation Department be prepared in the Miller Building, subject to the approval of the Director and Secretary of the Department.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Dew and passed to contract with the State Personnel Office to compile an Affirmative Action Plan for Columbus County at a cost of \$36.00 per day for approximately eleven days.

The following tax releases were approved upon motion by Commissioner Williamson

seconded by Commissioner Dew and recommended by the Tax Supervisor:

Ordered: that the taxes listed in the name of Alfonsa & Gennie Ree Brown, Ransom Township, be released for the years 1974 through 1976 on the valuation of \$450.00 due to an error in transferring property.

Ordered: that the 1977 taxes listed in the name of Flossie M. Jernigan, Williams Township, be released on the valuation of \$5,830.00 due to error in computing valuation.

Ordered: that the 1977 taxes listed in the name of Charles H. Shaw, Ransom Township, be cancelled due to double listing.

Ordered: that the taxes listed in the name of Irvin Batten, Lees Township, be cancelled for the years 1972 through 1977 due to double listing.

Ordered: that the 1977 taxes listed in the name of Cecil A. Knight, Jr., Whiteville Township, be released on the valuation of \$4,820.00 due to an error in transferring property.

A letter was presented to the Board asking the approval of funds to purchase seven autos for the Public Safety Commission for the year 1978-79 fiscal year, in the amount of \$41,734.00. The Board called Mr. Barker, Chief of County Police, to the meeting to discuss the request. Mr. Barker stated that he was not present at the meeting at which bids were received but the Board had accepted bids for Ford LTD's to be purchased from Fair Bluff Motors.

The Commissioners requested a meeting with the Public Safety Commission to discuss the possibility of purchasing some compact autos to be used by that Department as a trial basis. No decision was made on the request to approve funds at this time.

Susan Harmuth, Director, RSVP, met with the Board and requested an appropriation of \$9,000. from the County to continue Retired Senior Citizens Programs for the upcoming fiscal year. No action was taken at this time but the request is to be considered at the regular budget estimate meetings.

The Board adjourned into executive session at the request of the Attorney to discuss a lawyer-client matter which relates to a complaint made against the County by a former employee.

After the executive session the Board adjourned until April 19, 1978, at 9:00 a.m. to sit as a Board of Equalization & Review and to meet with the Public Safety Commission at 2:00 p.m.

APPROVED:

Emogene M. Suggs
Clerk

Waldo Melrose
Chairman