

The Honorable Board of Commissioners for the County of Columbus, North Carolina, met in continued regular session at the County Administration Building in Whiteville, North Carolina, the regular place of meeting, at 10:00 A.M., on April 19, 1978.

Present: Chairman C. Waldo Marlowe presiding, and Commissioners Junior W. Dew, Edward W. Williamson, L.A. Hinson and David L. McPherson

Absent: None

Also present: James E. Hill, Jr. Attorney

Rudolph B. Walters, Executive Director of the Columbus County Economic Development Commission and Secretary of The Columbus County Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority, appeared on behalf of the Authority to report that the Authority had received a letter stating that the Secretary of the Department of Commerce had been advised by the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina that the average weekly manufacturing wage proposed to be paid by Croft Metals, Inc. at its new aluminum products manufacturing facility near Fair Bluff was less than the average weekly manufacturing wage presently paid by all manufacturers in Columbus County and was also less than 20% above the average weekly manufacturing wage paid in the state of North Carolina and that for such reasons he cannot approve the Authority's application for approval of the proposed aluminum products manufacturing facility. Mr. Walters pointed out that G.S.159C-7 provides that where a company such as Croft Metals, Inc. does not pay an average weekly manufacturing wage above the average weekly manufacturing wage paid in the county or 20% above the average weekly manufacturing wage paid in the State that the Secretary of the Department of Commerce may nonetheless approve the proposed project if he shall have received (i) a resolution of the governing body of the county requesting that the proposed project be approved notwithstanding that the operator will not pay an average weekly manufacturing wage above the average weekly manufacturing wage in the county and (ii) a letter from an appropriate State official, selected by the Secretary to the effect that unemployment in the county is "especially severe".

Mr. Walters stated that he believed that the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina's statistics will show that unemployment in the County exceeds 8%, which the Department of Commerce has by regulation defined to be "especially severe" unemployment. Further, Mr. Walters pointed out that it was his belief that unemployment in the Fair Bluff area of Columbus County exceeds 14%, that there have been some 1500 applications for the 130 jobs that the proposed project would create and that the unskilled and semi-skilled labor required by Croft Metals, Inc. was immediately available in the Fair Bluff community. Mr. Walters stated that the Authority recommended to the Board of Commissioners for the County of Columbus that such Board adopt the necessary resolution requesting the Secretary of the Department of Commerce to approve the proposed project for Croft Metals, Inc., notwithstanding that the company will not pay an average weekly manufacturing wage in excess of the average weekly manufacturing wage presently paid in the County.

Thereupon, Commissioner Edward W. Williamson introduced the following resolution which was read:

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF

COLUMBUS REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO APPROVE A PROPOSED INDUSTRIAL PROJECT FOR CROFT METALS, INC. , NOTWITHSTANDING THAT CROFT METALS, INC. DOES NOT EXPECT TO PAY AN AVERAGE WEEKLY MANUFACTURING WAGE IN EXCESS OF THAT PAID IN COLUMBUS COUNTY.

WHEREAS, The Columbus County Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority (the "Authority") has agreed to issue its bonds in an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$2,500,000 to finance for Croft Metals, Inc. (the "Company"), the acquisition, improvement and equipping of an industrial building, including the site thereof, near Fair Bluff in Columbus County, for the manufacture of aluminum products (the "Project") and in accordance with the provisions of G.S.159C-7 has filed with the Secretary of the Department of Commerce an application for the approval of the project; and

WHEREAS, subparagraph (1)a of G.S.159C-7 of the General Statutes of the State of North Carolina provides that

"The Secretary [of the Department of Commerce] shall not approve any project unless he shall make all of the following, applicable findings:

(1) In the case of a proposed industrial project,

(a) That the operator of the proposed project pays, or has agreed to pay thereafter, an average weekly manufacturing wage (i) which is above the average weekly manufacturing wage paid in the county or (ii) which is not less than twenty percent (20%) above the average weekly manufacturing wage paid in the State.

and

WHEREAS, G.S.159C-7 also provides that

In any case where the Secretary shall make all of the required findings respecting a proposed industrial project except that prescribed in subparagraph (1)a of this section, the Secretary may, in his discretion, approve the proposed project if he shall have received (i) a resolution of the governing body of the county requesting that the proposed project be approved notwithstanding that the operator will not pay an average weekly manufacturing wage above the average weekly manufacturing wage in the county and (ii) a letter from an appropriate State official, selected by the Secretary, to the effect that unemployment in the county is especially severe.

and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Department of Commerce has determined that the Company does not expect to pay an average weekly manufacturing wage which is in excess of the average weekly manufacturing wage in Columbus County; and

WHEREAS, the Company has represented that the Project will initially provide employment for more than 130 residents of Columbus County and the surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, the Authority has requested and recommended that the Board of Commissioners for the County of Columbus request the Secretary of the Department of Commerce to approve the proposed Project notwithstanding that the Company does not expect to pay an average weekly manufacturing wage in excess of that presently paid in the County,

Now, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners for the County of Columbus, North Carolina, as follows:

Section 1. Because unemployment in Columbus County, and in particular unemployment

in the Fair Bluff area of Columbus County, is especially severe, the Board of Commissioners for the County of Columbus does hereby request that the Secretary of the Department of Commerce approve the Project pursuant to G.S. 159C-7, notwithstanding that the Company does not expect to pay an average weekly manufacturing wage that is above the average weekly manufacturing wage in Columbus County.

Section 2. The Clerk to the Board of Commissioners for the County of Columbus, North Carolina, is directed to file a certified copy of this resolution with the Department of Commerce.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

Commissioner Edward W. Williamson moved passage of the foregoing resolution entitled: "RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF COLUMBUS REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO APPROVE A PROPOSED INDUSTRIAL PROJECT FOR CROFT METALS, INC. NOTWITHSTANDING THAT CROFT METALS, INC., DOES NOT EXPECT TO PAY AN AVERAGE WEEKLY MANUFACTURING WAGE IN EXCESS OF THAT PAID IN COLUMBUS COUNTY", Commissioner David L. McPherson seconded the motion, and the resolution was passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners C. Waldo Marlowe, Junior W. Dew, Edward W. Williamson, David L. McPherson and L. A. Hinson.

Noes: None

William Waddell, Frances Wheeler, Francis McLean and Clyde Williams, Members of the Public Safety Commission, met with the Board to discuss the purchase of seven autos for 1978-79. The Public Safety Commission had contracted with Fair Bluff Motors to purchase seven police autos without funds being appropriated to cover the cost of the vehicles.

The Commissioners expressed an interest in purchasing a part of the vehicles in the intermediate size as a test measure. The majority of the Public Safety Commission preferred full sized cars and had approved this by Board action.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and approved that the request for appropriation of funds be tabled until further discussion and clarification from the Attorney.

Mrs. Wheeler made a request for additional space for Public Safety Commission offices in the County Hall Building. No action was taken at this time.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed that a letter be sent to Congressman Charlie Rose asking that the Whiteville post office property be designated a federal building to house federal agencies in the County. If this is not feasible, the Board would like to initiate action to acquire the property for the County.

Upon motion the meeting adjourned until May 1, 1978, at 10:00 a.m.

Emogene W. Long
Clerk

APPROVED:

C. Waldo Marlowe
Chairman