

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners met in their said office at 10:00 a.m., May 15, 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 Tommy Beaver, Pastor, Lutheran Church, Whiteville.

The following business was transacted:

The minutes of the May 3rd were approved as recorded upon motion by Commissioner McPherson and seconded by Commissioner Dew.

Hugh Clark, FmHA Administrator, met with the Board and made a brief report on the activities of his office. He stated that funds were available to loan but due to limited personnel and office space they were unable to keep applications current. He expressed appreciation to the Board for assigning a CETA slot to his office and asked that her salary be increased from \$2.65 per hour to \$3.81 which is the salary of a regular employee doing the same type work. He also asked that the Board renovate the upstairs of the old jail building and allow FmHA and Soil Conservation Service to utilize the space.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed that the Board look into the possibility of renovating the space and report back to Mr. Clark.

Mr. Clark was advised that a check would have to be made with the Office of Community Employment to see if funds are available for the salary increase.

Giles "Buddy" Byrd and Clyde Williams, Public Safety Commission Members, met with the Board to present the budget request for the PSC for 1978-79. No decision was made at this time, but will be considered at the budget meetings.

Mr. Keith Oates met with the Board to discuss the Mosquito Control Water Management Program. After the discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and passed that advertisement be made to employ a supervisor for the Program and that the Budget Officer include a proposed budget estimate in the upcoming Budget to operate the Program in accordance with the information given by Mr. Oates.

College Officials presented the College budget estimate for 1978-79. The major request was for \$1,100,000 over a period of three years to build a learning resources center. No action was taken at this time.

A budget request was also presented to the Board by Susan Woods, Chairman, Council on the Status of Women, for \$9,970.

Ms. Bible, Library Director, requested that an appropriation of Surplus in the

Library Fund be made in the amount of \$1,500.00 to paint the inside of the Whiteville Library Building before moving the County books into the building. A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed to grant the request.

A further motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and passed to advertise the house, located on the Library property, for sale by public auction.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed to authorize the Chairman to sign the necessary documents to accept the Title VI grant on behalf of the Library, to index the newspapers on file at the Library.

Garland McCullen, Extension Chariman, met with the Board to introduce Mr. Ronald Pearson. Mr. McCullen asked the approval of the Board to hire Mr. Pearson as livestock agent for Columbus County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed to approve the employment of Mr. Pearson.

The following tax releases were approved upon motion by Commissioner Williamson and seconded by Commissioner Hinson, and recommended by the Tax Supervisor:

Ordered: that the 1977 taxes listed in the name of Townsend Builders, Chadbourn Township, be cancelled on the valuation of \$1190 due to double listing.

Ordered: that the 1972-1977 taxes listed in the name of J. C. Hayes, Bogue Township, be cancelled due to double listing.

The City Council of Whiteville and Manager, Howard Jones, met with the Board to discuss the acquisition of the old post office building in Whiteville. Mayor Whitley expressed a desire for the City of Whiteville to acquire the building to be used as office space by the City of Whiteville. As the Board had not discussed the acquisition and use of the building at length, a motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed to delay the issue until the afternoon session when there would be further discussion as to whether the County would bid on the building and inform the City of Whiteville of their decision.

In the afternoon session a motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and passed that the Board go on record as being in favor of the City of Whiteville acquiring the old post office building and that the County not bid on same.

Commissioner Dew voted against the motion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Dew and passed that Commissioner McPherson be appointed the voting delegate to the Spring Legislative Conference in Raleigh.

A letter was presented to the Board from the Public Safety Commission stating that the Commission had taken action to withdraw from the County Salary Scale & Pay Plan.

The Board expressed a desire that all employees paid by the County be under the same Pay Plan. A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Mc-

Pherson and approved that the County Attorney consult with the Commission Attorney on this matter to ascertain if a Plan was implemented that would be compatible with spending federal funds.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed that the Chairman contact the Department of Transportation and ask that some immediate improvement be made on SR #1548 to help residents to be able to travel on SR #1548 which is now reported to be impassible.

The Tax Collector's Report for the month of April was presented to the Board as a matter of information.

A letter was presented to the Board from the Sheriff asking that the Office Deputy be reclassified as a Deputy Sheriff I and that her salary be increased from \$7,600 to \$8,868 per year. No action was taken at this time but will be considered in the upcoming budget.

A resolution was presented to the Board from the Town of Lake Waccamaw asking the County to enjoin the Town in establishing a "No Wake" zone for Big Creek.

Upon motion by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner Hinson, the following resolution was passed:

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners acknowledge the increasing danger to small boats and fishermen in the Big Creek area of Lake Waccamaw caused by excessive speed of power boats, and the Board of Commissioners hereby expresses it's condemnation of such speed and notes with alarm the increasing dangers;

WHEREAS, several accidents have occurred as a result of speeding in Big Creek in recent weeks, with harm to persons, and with the coming of the summer boating and fishing season, the Board recognizes that the dangers will be increased even more; and,

WHEREAS, the Town Board of Commissioners of Lake Waccamaw, North Carolina, have seen fit to recognize the danger to life and have requested the Columbus County Board of Commissioners to urge the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission to establish a "No Wake" zone in Big Creek, in its entirety, and the Board unanimously concurs;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus and the people of Columbus County enjoin the proper authorities of the North Carolina Wildlife Commission to establish a "No Wake" zone in Big Creek, in its entirety, at Lake Waccamaw, North Carolina.

Upon motion the meeting adjourned until May 16, 1978, at 7:00 p.m., to continue unfinished business.

APPROVED:

E. Magene W. Sugar  
Clerk

W. J. Mansour  
Chairman