

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners met in their said office at 10:00 a.m., November 20, 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 Rabbi Reuben Kesner, Whiteville, N. C.

The following business was transacted:

The minutes of the November 6th meeting were approved upon motion by Commissioner McPherson and seconded by Commissioner Hinson, with the following change; The correct name for REACT is Radio Emergency Associated Citizens Team and that the Board officially recognizes the organization.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and approved that the Landfill Supervisor be allowed to hire a bulldozer for approximately 22 hours to clear an area at the landfill to give access for the dragline to cut ditches in that area.

Mr. Ivey stated that James Reginald Carter, a landfill employee, had been absent from work as he sees fit, without proper notification or no notification at all to the Supervisor; also he is not properly reporting the need for repairs to the vehicle to which he is assigned. The Board instructed Mr. Ivey to give written notice to Mr. Carter that he is suspended from work, without pay, for three days and that further problems with him will result in termination of employment and that Commissioner Dew be present when this message is relayed to Mr. Carter.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed that the Landfill Supervisor be allowed to purchase a machine to clean the equipment used by the Landfill, at a cost of \$1705.00.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and passed that Janie S. Cox be designated to mail and certify the mailing of the notices, to the property owners who live within the proposed service district in the area around the Town of Fair Bluff. Notices are to be sent by first class mail at least 14 days before December 21st. This is a reprocess of the proposed district recorded in the minutes of the September 18th meeting and the Chairman is hereby authorized to sign the duplicate forms to reprocess with the establishment of the Service District due to an error in the Town Attorney, Richard Wright, making an error in computing the proposed tax rate.

The following is a description of the proposed service district in the Fair Bluff area and a report to the Board of Commissioners:

The undersigned making a report on behalf of the Board of Commissioners, of the County of Columbus under the mandate of North Carolina General Statutes 153A-300 and other provisions of Article 16 of the North Carolina General Statutes concerning County Service Districts, do hereby report as follows:

1. That Cole's Fire, Ambulance, and Rescue Service District is a service district proposed to be located in Fair Bluff Township, Columbus County, North Carolina; that the proposed district is shown on a map, copy of which is attached as Exhibit "A" (On file in Commissioners' Office) and that the metes and bounds of the proposed district are as follows:

Beginning at point (1) on SR 1355, 0.9 mile northeast of its intersection with the South Carolina State Line; thence in an easterly direction to point (2) on the Tabor City Road, (N.C. Highway 904), at its intersection with SR 1356; thence in a northerly direction to point (3) on SR 1356, 0.4 mile south of its intersection with SR 1353; thence in a northeasterly direction to point (4) on SR 1353, 0.4 mile east of its intersection with SR 1356; thence in a northerly direction to point (5) on SR 1359, 0.1 mile southeast of its intersection with SR 1356; thence in a northeasterly direction to point (6) on SR 1359, 0.1 mile south of its intersection with SR 1004; thence in a northeasterly direction to point (7) on SR 1004, 0.1 mile east of its intersection with SR 1359; thence in a northwesterly direction to point (8) on SR 1356, 0.5 mile north of its intersection with SR 1004; thence in a northerly direction to point (9) on SR 1356, 0.1 mile south of its intersection with U.S. Highway 76, excluding the property on SR 1356 between this and the preceding point; thence in a northeasterly direction to point (10) on U.S. Highway 76, 0.2 mile east of its intersection with SR 1356; thence in a northwesterly direction to point (11) on SR 1566, 1.1 mile northeast of its intersection with SR 1500; thence in a westerly direction to point (12), the city limits of Fair Bluff, North Carolina at the center of the run of Porter Swamp and the Lumber River; thence southwesterly along the Lumber River to point (13) at the intersection of the Lumber River and the South Carolina State Line; thence southeasterly along the South Carolina State Line to point (14) on SR 1355, at the South Carolina State Line; thence in an easterly direction to the beginning point (1).

This map and description of the proposed district shall exclude all property located within the city limits of Fair Bluff, North Carolina.

2. The proposed district meets the standards set out in North Carolina General Statutes 153A-302(a) in that:

(1) the resident population is constant and is not subject to any seasonal change; that the population density of this area is approximately fifty (50) persons per square mile and that approximately one thousand, five hundred (1,500) people live within the boundaries of the proposed district, excluding those persons living within the corporate limits of the municipality of Fair Bluff.

(2) the appraised value of the property subject to taxation and lying and being in the proposed district excluding the municipality of Fair Bluff is \$4,194,686.00, plus the value of the utilities.

(3) the present tax rate of the County of Columbus as applicable to residents and property owners of the proposed district is \$1.20 per \$100.00, evaluation and the County tax value does not exceed the rate limitation as set out in North Carolina General Statutes 153A-149(c).

(4) that the proposed tax rate for sustaining the proposed district would be ten cents (\$.10) per \$100.00, evaluation and the property owners and residents for the proposed service district would have the ability to sustain the additional tax necessary to provide the services planned for the proposed district; further that this rate would yield revenue of \$1,000.00, on property valued at \$1,000,000.00, and this is an extremely fair and reasonable rate of 1/10 of 1%.

(5) that since the proposed service district would not provide services concerning water, sewer, or solid waste collection services, that the

report does not have to contain probable net revenue or proof that the services would be self-supporting.

(6) that over 75% of the residents and real property owners, who are registered voters, have signed Petitions requesting that the proposed service district be in fact established and that a referendum would not be necessary due to the over-whelming percentage who have signed Petitions and due to the fact that the County tax rate added to the proposed rate for the service district would not exceed this tax rate limitation as set out in North Carolina General Statutes 153A-149(c).

(7) that there is a demonstrable need for providing fire, rescue, and ambulance service within the proposed district in that such service is not presently available outside the Town limits of the municipality of Fair Bluff.

(8) that it is presently impractical financially to provide these services on a county-wide basis at the expense of all the county taxpayers.

(9) that it is economically feasible to provide the proposed service within the proposed district without unreasonable or burdensome annual tax levies.

(10) that over 75% of the registered voters who live in the proposed district have signed a Petition requesting this service and that this constitutes demonstrable demand for the persons residing within the proposed district.

(11) that territory lying within the corporate limits of the municipality of Fair Bluff will not be included and resolution of the governing body of the Town of Fair Bluff is therefore unnecessary.

3. That the Town of Fair Bluff has agreed to contract with the Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus to provide fire, ambulance, and rescue service to the proposed district, pending creation of the proposed district by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus.

4. That this report is to be available for public inspection in the office of the Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners for at least four (4) weeks before the date of a public hearing and that the undersigned respectfully request that a public hearing be held at the direction of the Board of Commissioners for the County of Columbus on Thursday, the 21st day of December, 1978, at 7:30 o'clock, P.M. at the Fire Station in the Town of Fair Bluff; further that a Proposed Notice of Hearing is attached as Exhibit "B".

5. That the undersigned request that Janie S. Cox be designated by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus as the designee to mail notice and attached copy of the map by first class mail to all owners of property within the proposed service district as shown by the County Tax Records and as required by North Carolina General Statutes 153A-302(c); that this notice be forwarded by the designee, by first class mail at least four (4) weeks prior to December 21, 1978, and that the notice be published once not less than one week prior to December 21, 1978.

6. That the undersigned respectfully request that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Columbus do establish the proposed service district after duly considering the report and after holding the public hearing and that the proposed service district shall take effect on January 1, 1979.

Respectfully submitted, this 20th day of November, 1978.

/s/ E. D. Meares, Jr.

/s/ O. Richard Wright, Jr.

The following tax releases were approved upon motion by Commissioner Dew and seconded by Commissioner Williamson:

Ordered: that the 1978 taxes listed in the name of the following persons be released under the Property Tax Relief Act:

Henry D. & Minnie Hill	Whiteville Township	\$7,500.00 Valuation
Nora Mills	Ransom Township	2,625.00 Valuation

Ordered: that the 1973 through 1975 taxes listed in the name of Bobby G. McCumbee, Williams Township, be released on the following valuation; 1973 - \$3,380.00, 1974 & 1975 - \$6,760 due to a house burning in 1972.

Ordered: that the 1976 through 1978 taxes listed in the name of Charlie O. Hammonds, Chadbourn Township, be cancelled on the valuation of \$2,000.00 due to an error in transferring property.

Ordered: that the 1978 taxes listed in the name of Isaac Gatlin Smith Heirs, Bug Hill Township, be cancelled on the valuation of \$4,500.00 due to double listing.

Ordered: that the 1978 taxes listed in the name of William R. Cierpiot, Bug Hill Township, be cancelled on the valuation of \$1,470.00 due to an error in transfer of property.

Ordered: that the 1978 taxes listed in the name of Ervin & Betty Sasser, Lees Township, be cancelled on the valuation of \$14,500.00 due to an error in transferring property.

Ordered: that the 1978 taxes listed in the name of W. H. Sasser, Lees Township, be cancelled on the valuation of \$2,855.00 due to a change in property to be listed to him, and to be all on one abstract.

Ordered: that the 1978 taxes listed in the name of Weldon & Mary Lou Singleary, Lees Township, be released on the valuation of \$10,570.00 due to an error in the transfer of property.

Ordered: that the 1978 taxes listed in the name of James & George McCloskey, Tatum Township, be cancelled on the valuation of \$4,640.00 and be divided and rebilled separately.

Ordered: that the 1978 taxes listed in the name of R. L. Faulk, Bolton Township, be cancelled on the valuation of \$4,675.00. This property is to be divided and listed separately to William L. Faulk and Minnie O. Simmons.

Ordered: that the 1978 taxes listed in the name of Frank P. & Eula G. Brown, Ransom Township, be cancelled on the valuation of \$320.00 as Mr. Brown does not own this property being billed for.

Ordered: that the \$3.00 dog tax listed in the name of Eugene F & Leota H. Sears, Whiteville Township be released as Mr. Sears does not own a dog.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and approved that the Director of the Section Eight Housing Program be authorized to co-sign

checks disbursed from the Section Eight Rental Assistance Fund.

Mr. Carlton Cartrette, Landfill Employee, came to the meeting and asked that the Board meet with him privately, immediately and a motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and approved to adjourn into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. (11: 00 o'clock a.m.)

Representatives from Whiteville, Tabor City and Chadbourn Chambers of Commerce met with the Board concerning the hiring of a person to replace Col. (Ret.) R. B. Walters as the Director of the Economic Development Commission. The following Resolution was read aloud to the Board by Richard Dameron, Tabor City, N. C.:

RESOLUTION ON SELECTING A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF COLUMBUS COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Whereas, the Chambers of Commerce of Chadbourn, Tabor City and Whiteville note with regret the resignation of Col. (Ret.) Rudolph Walters as Executive Director of the Columbus County Economic Development Commission; and,

Whereas, the Chambers recognize the great contribution the Columbus County Economic Development Commission has made under the leadership of Col. (Ret.) Rudolph Walters to the industrial growth and general economy of all of Columbus County as well as its towns and communities; and,

Whereas, the Chambers are vitally interested in continuing a strong Columbus County Economic Development Commission as a viable body dedicated to promoting the growth of the entire County under able and competent leadership; and,

Whereas, the success of the Columbus County Economic Development Commission will be in direct proportion to the quality of leadership of its executive director and choosing Col. (Ret.) Walters' successor is of vital importance.

Now, therefore, be it Resolved that the Chambers of Commerce go on record as recommending to the County Commissioners:

1. That the Columbus County Economic Development Commission be favored and funded and continue as the active agency for seeking new industry and promoting economic and sociological growth for the County; and
2. That choosing a successor to Col. (Ret.) Walters be done with utmost care and consideration so that the successor to Col. (Ret.) Walters be a person of such great character and ability that the success of the Commission in carrying out its objectives be assured.

The foregoing Resolution having been unanimously adopted by the Chambers of Commerce of Chadbourn, Tabor City and Whiteville, it was agreed at a joint meeting held November 14, 1978, that a copy thereof would be forwarded to the Columbus County Board of Commissioners with request that they give utmost consideration thereto.

/s/ Jim Mauldin, President
Greater Chadbourn Chamber of Commerce

/s/ Richard Dameron, President
Greater Tabor City Chamber of
Commerce

/s/ Sam T. Gore, President
Greater Whiteville Chamber of Commerce

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and approved to accept the recommendation of the Chambers of Commerce. It was further agreed that, subject to the Approval of the Commission, that the Presidents of the Chambers, and possibly others, be active in selecting the replacement of Col. (Ret.) Walters.

Kirk Grosch, Community Development Director, met with the Board to request that \$2,500.00 be transferred from Rehabilitation to match a federal grant to prepare a historical inventory of Columbus County, in conjunction with the Towns of Fair Bluff, Tabor City and Chadbourn. A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and approved to grant the request for the transfer.

Mr. Grosch also informed the Board that a request had been made by Jack Britt that a ditch in the Boardman area be cleaned out using CD funds. No decision was made as more information is needed as to the cost to be incurred. He stated, further, that a pre-application for CD grants would be forthcoming, probably at the next meeting.

Hugh Clark, FmHA Manager for Columbus County office, made a report on the activities of that office for the past fiscal year. He stated that the office had made loans in the amount of \$7,000,000.00 and had outstanding accounts of \$35,000,000.00 in the County. He also expressed appreciation for the office space provided for FmHA personnel.

Allen Price and David Breeden, Moore & Price, CPA, presented the annual audit report for Columbus County funds for the FY 1977-78 which ended June 30th. Mr. Price presented each Member with a copy of the Report and asked that they review it and if they had any questions, either individually or as a Board, he would be glad to discuss it with them. He gave a few highlights of the Report and stated that the funds had been handled with fidelity and that the County's financial condition is healthy, but warned the Board to work carefully and not get over extended in offering additional services which citizens request from time to time. The Board accepted the Report for study. It was also recommended by Mr. William Turner, who was not present, that the County consider processing the tax records by computer.

There was a discussion of a proposed change for the Sheriff's Department's budget in relation to the termination of the Public Safety Commission and County Police System, which was decided by the following vote of the voting citizens of the County on the following issue:

- YES FOR retaining the Columbus County Public Safety Commission and County Police Force
- NO AGAINST retaining the Columbus County Public Safety Commission and County Police Force

PRECINCT	FOR	AGAINST
Bogue	387	271
Bolton	335	122
Bug Hill #1	42	72

PRECINCT	FOR	AGAINST
Bug Hill #2	63	55
Bug Hill #3	29	153
Cerro Gordo	161	216
Chadbourn	266	488
Cherry Grove	54	109
Fair Bluff	277	206
East Lees	61	161
North Lees	34	147
South Lees	25	47
West Lees	33	96
Ransom	182	231
Tatum	193	279
Waccamaw	152	284
Welches Creek	114	95
Western Prong	46	88
Whiteville #1	160	539
Whiteville #2	57	31
North Whiteville	59	176
South Whiteville	120	290
West Whiteville	80	184
Williams #1	92	375
Williams #2	80	158
South Williams	533	413
Absentee	55	53
TOTAL	3690	5339

The above is the official count for the special referendum which was held on November 7, 1978.

/s/ E. L. Green, Chairman
Board of Elections

SEAL

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 22nd day of November, 1978

Witness my hand and official seal /

/s/ Annie Ruth Strickland, Supervisor

The proposed budget was discussed with Sheriff Norton and Deputy Sasser. Their proposal would include all employee slots now under the employment of the Public Safety Commission and all employees of the Sheriff's Department with some changes in positions and salaries. The Board delayed any decisions at the morning session. Later in the afternoon there was further discussion and clarifications with Sheriff Norton, but no decisions were made.

Robert Clark, Director, Sencland Community Action, with several employees met with the Board to ask consideration for additional and better facilities for Sencland personnel. George Bryant was spokesman for the group and stated that there are presently thirty seven persons working in the Old Board of Education Building which is inadequate and that every miserable condition exists as far as working conditions are concerned. He requested that the Board give them a floor in the Miller wing of the Miller Building, or tighten up on the space for the departments now in the Miller Building to make room for Sencland offices and/or renovate the building in which they now work. No decisions were made but the Chairman is to find the status of the feasibility study on the Miller Hall now being considered for skilled nursing care, to decide which direction that issue will take before making any decisions.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson

and passed to again adjourn into executive session to further discuss personnel problems at the Landfill. (2:30 o'clock p.m.)

After the executive session the meeting reconvened.

The Clerk announced that a public hearing would be held for citizens to have input concerning the Revenue Sharing funds that had been previously appropriated to the operation of the Public Safety Commission & County Police. The Board indicated ~~that they~~ that the funds would be needed to operate the Sheriff's Department but that they would further discuss the matter at a continued meeting on Wednesday at 5:00 p.m., November 22, 1978, immediately following the public hearing.

Upon motion the meeting recessed until Wednesday, November 22, 1978, at 5:00 p.m., to continue unfinished business.

Approved:

Emogene W. Suggs
Clerk

Waldo Marlowe
Chairman