

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners met in their said office at 10:00 a.m., April 2, 1979, 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

James E. Hill, Jr., Attorney (Part-time) Emogene W. Suggs, Clerk

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman and the invocation was given by the Reverend Paul Boone, Whiteville United Methodist Church.

The following business was transacted:

The minutes of the March 19, 1979, meeting were approved as recorded upon motion by Commissioner Dew and seconded by Commissioner Hinson.

Wray Thompson presented the edited manuscript for the book that is to be published and will be entitled COLUMBUS COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA RECORDS AND COLLECTIONS. The manuscript is the result of several years work by the Bicentennial Commission, which is now dissolved. Mr. Thompson presented the manuscript to the Board along with information and suggestions concerning obtaining a publisher through advertisement to publish the book at an estimated cost of \$14,000 upwards depending on materials that will be included. The sale of the book would replenish the funds used in payment for publishing. No action was taken by the Board at this time.

A group of about 10 citizens, representing East Columbus Friends of the Public Library, met with the Board to request that the Board sign with FHA for some other lending agency) to obtain a loan of \$15,000 to \$20,000 to finish the renovations of the building now being prepared for a branch library in the eastern part of the County. Ronald McPherson, spokesman for the Group, stated that they has raised about \$20,000 to be applied to the renovation of the building and would continue to raise funds to make payments on the loan but could not borrow funds without the County guaranteeing payment.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by all Members and passed that, contingent on any legal problems, the County sign for a loan for the Group in the amount of \$15,000 - \$20,000 on terms similar to loans obtained for rescue squads and fire departments when borrowing funds for buildings.

Kirk Grosch, Community Development Director, met with the Board and informed them that they would have to adopt the minimum housing codes by 1982 and suggested that the Board review the Codes and consider adopting them for the CD target areas in the near future. He also stated that he is trying to interest some building agency to participate in the 202 Housing Program and the Section Eight New Construction Program but has not found anyone at this time.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed to approve the drainage project in the Boardman area at an estimated cost of \$2,500.00.

Joanne Vereen, Social Services Director, presented the budget estimate for the Department of Social Services for the fiscal year 1979-80 for all programs and administration. The total increase in funds is \$136,131.00 as stated by Mrs. Vereen. The Board took no action on the budget request.

Mrs. Vereen requested that travel allowance per mile be increased from 15¢ to 17¢, which was approved upon motion by Commissioner McPherson and seconded by Commissioner Williamson but including all county employees. Any budget that does not have enough funds to cover the increase will have additional funds appropriated from Surplus.

The following Proclamation was declared upon motion by Commissioner McPherson and seconded by Commissioner Dew:

WHEREAS, both the National Action for Foster Children Committee and Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. have proclaimed the month of April as National Action for Foster Children Month to call attention to the vital needs of foster children: and

WHEREAS, there are 48 foster children in Columbus County who have had to leave their home for various reasons; and

WHEREAS, the Columbus County Social Services Department and a dedicated group of foster parents are providing these children with a temporary home during their troubled times; and

WHEREAS, many of these children have had to remain in foster care for too long rather than being returned to their natural parents or released for adoption; and

WHEREAS, there needs to be more concern and understanding of these children's needs on behalf of our entire citizenry if their plight is to be improved;

NOW, THEREFORE, we proclaim the month of April 1979, ACTION FOR FOSTER CHILDREN MONTH in Columbus County and commend the foster parents of our County for the outstanding job they are doing in helping these children. We call on all of the citizens of Columbus County to become concerned and involved in helping these homeless Children.

/s/ C. Waldo Marlowe, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed to increase the salary of Helen Bethea \$20.00 per week due to an increase in her work load and that this action be reviewed at budget time.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed that Garland McCullen, Extension Chairman, be allowed to hire a PACE student and that funds be appropriated from his travel budget to cover the cost.

It was ordered by the Board that vacation time earned by Ronald Pearson, who has resigned, be paid for only the time earned during his employment in Columbus County and not for the time earned in another County.

The following Proclamation was declared upon motion by Commissioner Williamson and seconded by Commissioner Dew:

WHEREAS, libraries are one of our County's most valuable resources bringing information and entertainment to nearly every Columbus County resident; and

WHEREAS, libraries are one of the few institutions that serve people of all ages, occupations and incomes; and

WHEREAS, the libraries serving Columbus County - Columbus County Public Library and its branches, Columbus County Public School and Whiteville City School Libraries, and Southeastern Community College Learning Resources Center - contribute to our County's vitality and growth;

BE IT SO RESOLVED THAT COLUMBUS COUNTY observes the week of April 2nd through April 8th as NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK and recognizes the Libraries' enormous contribution to everyone from the preschooler to the professional, all year long.

/s/ Waldo Marlowe, Chairman
Columbus County Commissioners

The following tax release was approved upon motion by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and recommended by the Tax Collector:

Ordered: that a refund be given to Pioneer Savings & Loan Association, Whiteville, N. C. in the amount of \$734.64 for taxes listed in the name of George Keith Stanely and Diane Stanley, Whiteville Township, for the years 1976 and 1977 due to an error in paying the wrong taxes and the receipts have been returned to the Tax Collector.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Dew and passed to enter into contract with Moore & Price, CPA, to audit County funds for the fiscal year 1978-79 at a cost of \$97.50 per day. This will only include the funds normally audited and does not include school funds, CETA Contracts or HUD Programs.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and approved that Peggy G. Fields be granted a leave of absence, without pay, for two weeks in July.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and passed that the CES equipment be paid for, in full at the time of purchase rather than on a lease-purchase agreement, and that the funds be appropriated from Surplus to cover the expenditure. Commissioner McPherson also stipulated that the above action be subject to a written statement from the Board of Elections that they will use the equipment when holding elections in the future.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Dew and passed that the Health Department Budget be amended to include \$1,000.00 in additional

funds to be expended for 'Medical Assistance Fees' in the School Health Program.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Dew and approved to accept the resignation of Mrs. Carl Meares, Jr. and Ms. Susan S. Carter from the Council on the Status of Women. Ms. Brenda Troy and Ms. Donna Scott were appointed as replacements on the Council.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dew, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and passed that the following Resolution be sent to local State Legislators and recommend that it be considered for passage in the General Assembly:

WHEREAS, under the present system of taxation as authorized by North Carolina General Statutes, 105-115 and 105-120, Municipalities of North Carolina share 50% of the State Franchise Tax on telephone, electric and gas public utilities located within their corporate boundaries; and

WHEREAS, in the fiscal year of 1977-78 the municipal share of this tax amounted to approximately \$37,500,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Counties of North Carolina shared with the State in a like manner as do the Municipalities of North Carolina on Franchise Taxes collected outside the corporate boundaries of the municipalities, the Counties' share of this tax would have been approximately \$41,070,000.00 for the fiscal year 1977-78; and

WHEREAS, it is the position of this Board that such equal treatment for cities and counties alike is only fair and just; and

WHEREAS, the distribution of 50% of this tax collected outside the municipalities would not create an additional burden on the utilities taxed, or in any way deprive the municipalities of its fair and just share; and

WHEREAS, the Counties of North Carolina are facing severe financial dilemmas and desperately need to acquire new sources of revenue to support the many needed programs and services which they must provide; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina has many efficient methods of taxation and this year anticipate a revenue surplus; and

WHEREAS, nearly all State problems impact at the local level and require local financial and administrative support; and

WHEREAS, there is expressed abroad the State a need to provide tax relief to its citizens; and

WHEREAS, such revision of the franchise tax structure would provide indirect tax relief to the citizens of the State of North Carolina by way of lower property tax rates; and

WHEREAS, there is currently a bill (H-396) in the General Assembly which would affect this needed change; and

WHEREAS, this bill represents a specific legislative goal of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, this bill will be of direct economic benefit to county;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Columbus County Board of Commissioners do hereby request its Legislative Delegation, composed of R. C. Soles, Jr., Richard Wright, Edd Nye, and Ron Taylor to support such legislation.

Board of Commissioners of Columbus County

BY: /s/ Waldo Marlowe, Chairman

ATTESTED:

/s/ Emogene W. Suggs, Clerk

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed to pay the electric and water bills for the Columbus County Chapter of the American Red Cross which is located in a County owned trailer.

Mr. John Yates introduced Mr. Joe Kenyon to the Board as the replacement in the position he vacated by resignation. The Board commended Mr. Yates for a job well done as District Conservationist in Columbus County for his many years of service, and welcomed Mr. Kenyon to the County.

Mr. Steve Whitacre presented a monthly report to the Board on the progress in revaluing county property which is 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ % complete at this time.

It was stated by the Board that the new personnel administrative policy manuals be distributed to each County employee without cost or obligation to return when leaving County employment.

Chairman Marlowe reported to the Board that Mr. John Porter, who purchased the house on Thompson Street in July of 1977, had been contacted by both he and the County Attorney and had been given ample time to remove the house from the property. Due to the many complaints from the local residents that the building is hazardous and a harbor to snakes and rodents, he suggested that the Town of Whiteville be allowed to burn the house. The Board also discussed the possibility of selling the lot on Thompson Street and the house and lot where the Board of Elections is located. Commissioner Dew was asked to determine the repairs, etc. that would be needed to locate the Board of Elections in the Miller Building.

Another request for office space was submitted to the Board from the State Rehabilitation Office who stated they would pay rent at a rate of \$5.00 per square foot. No final decisions were made at this time.

Upon motion the meeting adjourned until April 16, 1979, at 10:00 a.m.

APPROVED:

Emogene W. Suggs Clerk

Waldo Marlowe Chairman

minutes begin on Page 102 - (Error)

2. Designate the responsibility for arranging the manuscript to be bid to the Columbus County Library with final approval by the Board of Commissioners.

3. Appropriate funds to the Library Budget for the acceptable bid and all transactions related to the publishing of the book be charged to a line item in the Library budget.

4. Columbus County Board of Commissioners are hereby designated as the holder of the copyright. (To be applied for)

5. Vest in the Library the responsibility of any and all functions related to the publishing, sale and distribution of the book and report to the Board on the status of the revenue generated from the sale of the book and make payment for services rendered for the purpose of acquiring 4,500 copies of the book.

At 12:00 Noon bids were opened and read aloud for the purpose of purchasing equipment for the Recreation Department and the Landfill to use jointly.

Bids were recorded as follows:

Company	Tractor	Blade	Cutter	Disk	Trailer
V & M Supply Company	\$ 7,000.00	\$295.00	\$503.00	\$750.00	\$ 960.00
Elliott Implement Co.	6,642.68 7,350.00	330.00	550.00	765.00 660.00	1420.00
Sessions Farm Machinery	5,867.00 6,588.00 5,767.00	150.00	500.00	700.00	1300.04

No decisions were made on the equipment at this time and some Board members are to visit the equipment locations to get further information and study the different makes of equipment.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed to endorse the proposed changes in the Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System now being considered by the General Assembly to give a 5% cost of living increase to all present retirees and beneficiaries and a 10% increase to those persons retiring between July 1, 1968 and June 30, 1978. The increase in cost to the County would be .173%.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed to appoint Mr. C. L. Sharp to the Lake Waccamaw Planning Board to replace Ms. Helen Coleman. Mr. Sharp was recommended by the Lake Waccamaw Town Commission.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed to write a letter to the Sheriff and request that he assign a deputy to concentrate on the littering violations in the County for the 30 days to try to stop the roadside littering and it was further ordered that Paul Hughes post "No Littering" signs on the Courthouse Square.

The Board of Elections, Elections Supervisor and about five citizens met with the Board to discuss the purchase of voting equipment to be used in the County. Stan Smith, Salesman for Valtec Equipment, was present and presented a demonstration of the Valtec system. There was a discussion concerning both the Valtec and Computer Elections Systems. The Board