

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners met in their said office at 10:00 a.m., May 7, 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 Commissioner McPherson.

The following business was transacted:

The minutes of the April 16th meeting were approved as recorded upon motion by Commissioner Hinson and seconded by Commissioner McPherson.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed to appoint Wray Thompson as liaison person to work with the Board and the Library Director during the time of the publication of the book, Columbus County, North Carolina: Records and Recollections. This motion is an addendum to the motion passed in the April 16th meeting relating to the publication of the Book.

The following tax releases were approved upon motion by Commissioner McPherson and seconded by Commissioner Williamson and recommended by either the Tax Collector or the Tax Supervisor:

Ordered: that a refund be given to Federal Land Bank, Whiteville, N. C., in the amount of \$78.76 due to an error in addition for the 1978 taxes listed in the name of Edward L. & Elizabeth G. Rivenbark, Bug Hill Township.

Ordered: that a refund be given to Ronald Wayne Byerly, Tabor City, N. C., in the amount of \$76.80 due to an error in listing a house that had been removed from the property. This property is located in South Williams Township for the years 1977 and 1978.

Ordered: that a refund be given to E. C. Sanders, Jr., Tabor City, N. C., in the amount of \$1,823.04 due to double listing a house in South Williams Township for the years 1976, 1977, and 1978.

Ordered: that a refund be given to Ellison R. & Edith B. Cooper, Whiteville, N. C. due to an error in computing taxes for the years 1977 and 1978 in Whiteville Township. The refund is for \$200.00.

Ordered: that a refund be given to Frank A. Register, Rt. 4, Whiteville, N. C. in the amount of \$158.04 due to an error in grading his house. Refund is for the years 1976, 1977 and 1978 and the property is located in Lees Township.

Ordered: that the 1978 taxes listed in the name of Joseph L. Williams, South Williams Township be cancelled on the valuation of \$2,500.00 due to double listing.

Ordered: that the 1976 taxes listed in the name of Thurston and Carolyn King be cancelled on the valuation of \$230.00 for the year 1976 due to double listing. Property is located in Ransom Township.

Approval in Principle of an Industrial and Manufacturing Project

James E. Hill, Jr., County Attorney, announced, pursuant to Chapter 159C of the General Statutes of North Carolina and regulations thereunder, that he had been advised that the Columbus County Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority intended to file an application with the Secretary of the Department of Commerce for approval of an industrial and manufacturing project in Columbus County, N. C., consisting of the acquisition of a 45.65 acre site and a 40,000 square foot building thereon, and of equipping the same with metal working machinery for the manufacture of electronic and conventional scales and packaging machinery, to be financed for Franklin Electric Co. by not exceeding \$1,200,000 aggregate principal amount of bonds of the Authority. Since such application for approval cannot, under regulations of the Department of Commerce, be officially received until, among other things, the Board approves the project in principle, the Authority has recommended and requested that the Board pass a resolution approving the project in principle without in any way prejudicing the right and responsibility of the Board under G.S. 159C-4(d) to approve or not to approve the issuance of the bonds after the Dept. of Commerce has approved the project and the Local Government Commission has approved the bond issue, by which time additional information relative to the project, the Company and the proposed financing will have developed.

Thereupon Commissioner McPherson introduced the following Resolution which was read:

RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE OF AN INDUSTRIAL AND MANUFACTURING PROJECT IN COLUMBUS COUNTY, N. C., TO BE FINANCED FOR FRANKLIN ELECTRIC COMPANY BY NOT EXCEEDING \$1,200,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF BONDS OF COLUMBUS COUNTY INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES AND POLLUTION CONTROL FINANCING AUTHORITY.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners for the County of Columbus:

Section 1. The proposed industrial and manufacturing project in Columbus County, N. C., consisting of the acquisition of a 45.65 acre site and 44,000 square foot building thereon, and of equipping the same with metal working machinery for the manufacture of electronic and conventional scales and packaging machinery, to be financed for Franklin Electric Company by not exceeding \$1,200,000 aggregate principal amount of bonds of the Columbus County Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority is hereby approved in principle.

Section 2. The Clerk to the Board of Commissioners for the County of Columbus, N. C., 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 McPherson moved the passage of the foregoing Resolution entitled: "RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE OF AN INDUSTRIAL AND MANUFACTURING PROJECT IN COLUMBUS COUNTY, N. C., TO BE FINANCED FOR FRANKLIN ELECTRIC COMPANY BY NOT EXCEEDING \$1,200,000 AMOUNT OF BONDS OF THE COLUMBUS COUNTY INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES POLLUTION CONTROL FINANCING AUTHORITY", Commissioner Williamson seconded the motion, and the resolution was passed by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

COLUMBUS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

May 3, 1979

RUDOLPH B. WALTERS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Waldo Marlowe, Chairman
Columbus County Board of Commissioners
Route 4
Whiteville, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Marlowe:

The Columbus County Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority has entered into a Memorandum Agreement with Franklin Electric Company, Bluffton, Indiana. In preparing this application the Columbus County Board of Commissioners are requested to take action on the following:

1. Approval in Principle of an Industrial and Manufacturing Project.
2. Wage Waiver

These are the same items requested for the recently approved Croft Metals Project, Fair Bluff, North Carolina.

At the pre-application conference held in Raleigh, April 26th Franklin Electric Company officials stated that Franklin Electric plans to pay an average weekly manufacturing wage of \$214.00.

In a conference telephone conversation May 2nd with Mr. Frank Robinson, Bond Counsel in New York and Mr. Bruce Strickland, Chief of Industrial Financing, N. C. Department of Commerce, Raleigh, Mr. Strickland informed me that the most recent figures prepared by the State indicates that the average weekly wage for Columbus County is \$215.00, thus the difference of \$1.00 per week. Therefore, Bond Counsel and the State are requesting a wage waiver.

Your prompt action at the May 7th County Commissioners's Meeting will be deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,



Doris S. Hughes
Assistant Secretary
Columbus County Industrial
Facilities and Pollution
Control Financing Authority

James E. Mill, Jr., Attorney for Columbus County, introduced a letter to the Board of Commissioners from Doris S. Hughes, Acting Director of the Columbus County Economic Development Commission and Assistant Secretary of the Columbus County Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority, on behalf of the Authority relating to the proposed financing by Franklin Electric Company, Inc. attached hereto as Exhibit A. Ms. Hughes was then introduced and she pointed out that G.S. 159C-7 provides that where a company such as Franklin Electric Company, Inc. does not pay an average weekly manufacturing wage above the average manufacturing wage paid in the County or above 10% above the average weekly manufacturing wage paid in the State that the Secretary of Commerce may nonetheless approve the proposed project if he shall have received (1) a resolution of the governing board 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 (2) a letter from an appropriate State official, selected by the Secretary to the effect that unemployment in the county is "especially severe".

Thereupon, Commissioner McPherson 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 FRANKLIN ELECTRIC COMPANY, 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 \$1,200,000 to finance for Franklin Electric Company, Inc. (the "Company"), the acquisition, improvement and equipping of an existing building, including the site thereof, in Columbus County, for the manufacture of electronic and conventional scales and packaging machinery (the "Project") and in accordance with the provision of G.S. 159C-7 will shortly file 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 proposed 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 ten percent (10%) 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 sub-paragraph (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 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 average weekly manufacturing wage in Columbus County; and

WHEREAS, the Company has represented that the Project will provide employment for approximately 100 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, 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 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 McPherson 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 FRANKLIN ELECTRIC CO., INC., NOTWITHSTANDING THAT FRANKLIN ELECTRIC CO., INC., DOES NOT EXPECT TO PAY AN AVERAGE WEEKLY MANUFACTURING WAGE IN EXCESS OF THAT PAID IN COLUMBUS COUNTY", Commissioner Williamson seconded the motion, and the resolution was passed by the following vote:

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

Noes: None.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed, that the County Commissioners of Columbus County unanimously adopt the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Executive Director of SENcland Community Action, Inc., has requested the County of Columbus and the North Carolina Department of Transportation to provide one hundred (100%) percent of the cost of the following public transportation project:

1. Establish two (2) administrative positions (Transportation coordinator

and clerk-dispatcher) to carry out effective transportation coordination within Columbus County;

(2) Provide for a toll free telephone service to enable county residents to coordinate needed transportation services without charge;

(3) Promote transportation efficiency through the purchase and operation of a two-way communication system for radio dispatching of vehicles;

(4) Support expenditures for administrative travel, office supplies and printing costs; and

(5) Operate and evaluate a pilot program of coordinated medical related trips to priority transportation disadvantaged persons living within a four county area,

At an estimated cost of \$42,024.00,; to be provided by the County of Columbus and the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chairman of the Columbus County Board of Commissioners be and hereby is authorized and empowered to enter into a contract with the North Carolina Department of Transportation as may be necessary to effectuate the aforesaid expressed purpose, thereby binding the said Columbus County Board of Commissioners to the fulfillment of its obligations incurred under said contract and this Resolution.

A request was made by the Board of Elections Chairman to increase the per diem pay for the members of the Board of Elections from \$25.00 to \$35.00.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Dew and passed to grant the foregoing request made by Chairman Green.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed to amend the budget of the Health Department to transfer \$2,000.00 from Travel to Equipment to be allowed to purchase an addressograph machine. It was also approved for the Department of Civil Preparedness to transfer \$200.00 from Equipment to Office Supplies.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and approved to allow the Clerk to take Minute Books #XVI and XVII to the Department of Archives and History to be microfilmed. It was also approved for the Library Director to be allowed to take one minute book, on a daily basis, to the County Library to set up an index to the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Commissioners. The book is to be returned to the vault at 5:00 p.m. each day.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed that the County appropriate approximately \$1,200.00 from Surplus to purchase a single channel radio for the Chadbourn Rescue Unit, and that Tabor City Rescue Unit be paid \$75.00 for a used base station radio to be used by Hallsboro Fire & Rescue Squad.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed to allow Southeastern Community College to bond an employee with bond payable to the County of Columbus, to allow that employee to co-sign checks at the College that are now being signed by the County Finance Office. Selection must be approved by County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed that the Clerk write a letter to the Legislative Delegation representing Columbus County in Raleigh and request that they vote to retain the Intangible Tax now allocated to counties or if Intangible Taxes are deleted, replace with some other revenue to local governments.

The Board also wanted to stress to the Legislators that a hardship is now being placed on Columbus County because of legislation that has already been passed to require that the County house some prisoners that have formerly been in State institutions. The Board asks that the Legislators seek relief for the County on this problem by either passing legislation to revert these prisoners back to State institutions or provide funds so that counties may enlarge their facilities to take care of the overflow without having to transfer them to other facilities in other towns and counties.

It was brought to the attention of the Board that Columbus County would not be allotted enough funds to keep all the CETA slots now on board and must cut the slots by eight.

By general agreement the following determination was made:

Delete three slots from the County Board of Education; Two slots from Town of Tabor City and one each from City of Whiteville, Southeastern Community College and Town of Cerro Gordo.

The following Reports were presented to the Board for information:

Tax Collector's Report for Month of April - Collected 93.23% of 1978 taxes

Register of Deeds Report for March

Carroll-Phelps - Reported revaluation is now 22% complete

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and passed to appoint Jack Ervin to the Lower Cape Fear Water & Sewer Authority to replace Rudolph Walters who has resigned.

Jail Inspectors Hall and Wilson from Department of Human Resources, and Deputy Sheriff Sasser met with the Board to discuss the problem at the Law Enforcement Center of not having adequate space to house prisoners. This situation has been brought about, at least in part, by changes in State legislation which requires that prisoners serving sentences of less than six months be retained on the local level and a number of persons who are being sentenced to week-end confinement. Inspector Hall stated that his first look at the situation would seem to suggest that a dormitory type facility would be adequate and less expensive than the cell type facility. He suggested that there is a need for 12 to 15 beds and a nominal amount of office space. Mr. Allen agreed to get further information and meet with the Sheriff and the Commissioners later to discuss the matter further at a date to be set later.

Mr. E. L. Green, along with four Waccamaw Township residents, met with the Board to request a change in the boundary line between Waccamaw and Bogue Townships. They asked that the boundary line be established from Weaver's property to Dupree Landing to follow the Town line in the canal.

There was also a petition from residents of the Bella Coola Community requesting that they be allowed to vote in Waccamaw Precinct rather than Bolton Precinct due to inconvenience in traveling to Bolton. Mr. Green stated that 99% of the voters signed the request.

No decision was made at this time as the Board wanted to discuss this with the Attorney, who was not present at this time. Later in the meeting there was a discussion on these subjects and the Attorney asked for time to study any laws that would be related to their decision.

Mr. Bill Reilly, COG Planner, met with the Board to discuss the establishment of a housing authority. His opinion was that a regional authority would be more feasible and briefed the Board on the values of a regional authority. He stated that the lack of availability of rural water & sewer facilities would be a hindrance to obtaining housing grants for Columbus County. He was asked to investigate the possibility of obtaining grants for housing with a septic tank sewage system. No decision was made at this time but was tabled until the next Board meeting.

Sanford Strickland appeared before the Board to express disapproval of the treatment of his daughter by Dr. Eugene Douglas and asked the Board for help to get his daughter back on medication. The Chairman was designated to talk with Dr. Douglas and the Clerk of Court to assist in any way possible.

Claude Spivey met with the Board to restate to the Board that he had again been denied ambulance service by the Tabor City Rescue Squad and that he would take steps to have tax monies deleted from the Squad if the Board did not resolve the matter.

The Board called Howard Stanley to the meeting to ask if he would discuss the matter with the Squad and try to work out a solution to the problem. Mr. Stanley is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Tabor City Squad.

Upon motion the Board adjourned until 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 8, 1979, to have a budget work session and set the final meeting of Equalization & Review at 8:00 p.m., Thursday, May 10, 1979.

APPROVED:

Emogene W. Suggs CLERK

Waldo Marlene CHAIRMAN