

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners met in their said office at 10:00 a.m., May 21, 1979, it being third Monday.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD PRESENT:

C. Waldo Marlowe, Chairman

Junior W. Dew, Vice-Chairman (Part-time)

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 David Jay, Director, Boys Home of N. C., Inc.

The following business was transacted:

The minutes of the May 7th meeting were approved as recorded upon motion by Commissioner McPherson and seconded by Commissioner Hinson.

The following tax release was approved upon motion by Commissioner Williamson and seconded by Commissioner Hinson, upon the recommendation of the Tax Supervisor:

Ordered: that the 1978 taxes listed in the name of Riegelwood Country Club, Inc., Ransom Township, be released on the valuation of \$16,850.00 due to a building burning in 1977.

The following proclamation was declared upon motion by Commissioner Williamson and seconded by Commissioner Hinson:

A PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE WEEK OF MAY 28, 1979 THROUGH JUNE 2, 1979 VIETNAM VETERANS' WEEK IN COLUMBUS COUNTY, N. C.

Whereas, the veterans of the Vietnam Era served their Country under the most trying circumstances due to the lack of popular support for the conflict; and

Whereas, the courage and resolve of these men and women has not been adequately recognized by the American people; and

Whereas, their performance of duty was by all measures the equal of their counterpart in previous conflicts; and

Whereas, the sacrifices of those who returned from the Southeast Asia conflict disabled or suffering from prolonged readjustment problems have met with apathy; and

Whereas, these veterans have been burdened by an unfair and negative image in the public mind due to their service in the unpopular conflict our Country asked them to fight; and

Whereas, an expression of gratitude should be given to those who gave a substantial portion of their lives at their Government's request and in the name of the people of the United States to serve in such conflict;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners that the week beginning May 28, 1979 be declared Vietnam Veterans' Week in Columbus County, North Carolina.

/s/ Waldo Marlowe, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

The following proclamation was signed by the Chairman to designate June 1st and 2nd as SHRINE HOSPITAL WEEKEND:

WHEREAS, the members of the Sudan Temple, which is over 11,000 strong in Eastern North Carolina, annually help support 18 Shriners' Hospitals for Crippled Children and 3 Burns' Institutions in North America; and

WHEREAS, the Shriners have never charged anyone for services in these institutions; and

WHEREAS, the Columbus County Shrine Club Members aid this cause locally each year; and

WHEREAS, Sudan Temple is holding its FIRST ANNUAL SHRINE NEWSPAPER SALE to benefit these institutions; and

WHEREAS, the Columbus County Shrine Club will sell these newspapers on June 1st and 2nd in our communities for this worthy cause;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Waldo Marlowe, Chairman of the Columbus County Commissioners declare that June 1st and 2nd be known as SHRINE HOSPITAL WEEKEND in our County and urge the citizens of Columbus County to support this cause.

This the 21st day of May, 1979.

/s/ Waldo Marlowe, Chairman
Columbus County Commissioners

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed to approve the employment of James Norris, Clarendon, N. C., as the Livestock Extension Agent in Columbus County. Mr. Norris will begin work on July 1, 1979. Mr. Norris was recommended to the Board by Extension Chairman Garland McCullen.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Williamson and passed to appoint Raymond Shaw, Riegelwood, N. C., to fill the vacancy on the Jury Commission. He replaces Asa Reeves who is deceased.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner McPherson and passed to approve charging family planning patients, under Title X Programs, and not eligible under Title XIX or XX, on a sliding scale per regulations from the Department of Human Resources.

By general agreement the Board decided not to appropriate additional funds for medicaid payments, above the present appropriation, for the fiscal year 1978-79. This decision was made to join other counties who do not have adequate appropriation and have decided ~~to~~ not to increase their budgets for 1978-79.

Mr. Robert Inman, representing the surveyors of Columbus County and himself as a taxpayer, met with the Board and made a lengthy presentation regarding the surveyors relationship with the County Sanitarian, Cecil Edwards, which he states is not satisfactory. He presented several complaints with both Mr. Edwards and Dr. Black, Health Dept. Director. In summation he requested that qualified surveyors be included, in writing, on a list of professional persons as being qualified to draw up drainage plans for

individual septic tank systems.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed that the Clerk write a letter to the Columbus County Board of Health requesting that licensed qualified surveyors be included, in writing, on a list of professional persons qualified to draw up drainage plans for individual septic tank systems in Columbus County, and not use the terminology "Qualified Persons" as this may be misleading to some citizens.

Whiteville Police Chief, Sheriff Norton and Deputy Sasser met with the Board to discuss the overcrowding at the local Law Enforcement Center. G.S. 148.32-1 (b) was reviewed by the Board, which was pointed out by Representative Edd Nye, and relates to the overcrowding problem. Chief Deputy Sasser stated that Tabor City jail would house some of the excess prisoners if the Board of Commissioners would agree to pay for catering of meals to the prisoners as there are no facilities at the Tabor City jail to provide meals.

A motion was made by Commissioner McPherson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed that the County Attorney meet with the three district judges to discuss the matter with them and that he also write a letter to the Head Jailer and make him aware of the provisions of G.S.148-31.1 (b).

Chief Deputy Sasser asked that he be allowed to purchase a new car to replace the one that has been wrecked and considered a total loss. He stated that there would be some delay in recovering the insurance money due to an investigation to be made by the insurance company. Due to the fact that there are no funds in the Sheriff's budget to cover the expenditure of a new car, a motion was made by Commissioner Williamson, seconded by Commissioner Hinson and passed that Commissioner Dew help locate a used car for the Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Robert King, Mr. John Pulaski, Mr. Harold Blanchard and Mr. Don Smith, representing the Intra-Council of Civic Clubs of Whiteville, met with the Board to discuss the possibility of purchasing or leasing the County property on Thompson Street to be used to build a civic center.

They stressed that it is now just an idea but seems to have much support to build a center in the Whiteville area to accommodate about 200 persons. The group wanted verbal support of the concept and asked that the Board give serious consideration to the use of the property as a location for a civic center, to which the Board agreed that it was a good idea to build a center and would consider their suggestion.

Dr. Jerry Paschal met with the Board to present each Member with a copy of the Annual Report of the Columbus County Schools which he pointed out that it would be his last presentation as Supt. of Columbus County Schools.

He also presented a letter from the Board of Education, who voted unanimously to support a local bond issue referendum in regards to school physical facility improvements. No action was taken by the Board at this time.

In the afternoon session there was a meeting of the Department Heads and Henry Molden briefed the audience on the Affirmative Action Plan for Columbus County, which was prepared by the State Personnel Office.

Chairman Marlowe asked that each Department Head work with the employees to make them energy conscious and make every effort to reduce energy costs.

Commissioner McPherson asked cooperation and understanding by the Departments in the efforts of the Board to not increase local property taxes, if possible, in their preparation of the 1979-80 budget estimate.

Upon motion the meeting adjourned until May 23, 1979, at 8:00 p.m. to work on the budget estimate.

APPROVED:

Emogene W. Suggs Clerk

Walter Marlowe Chairman